Serving the Muhlenberg College Community Since 1883

The Muhlenberg Weekly

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

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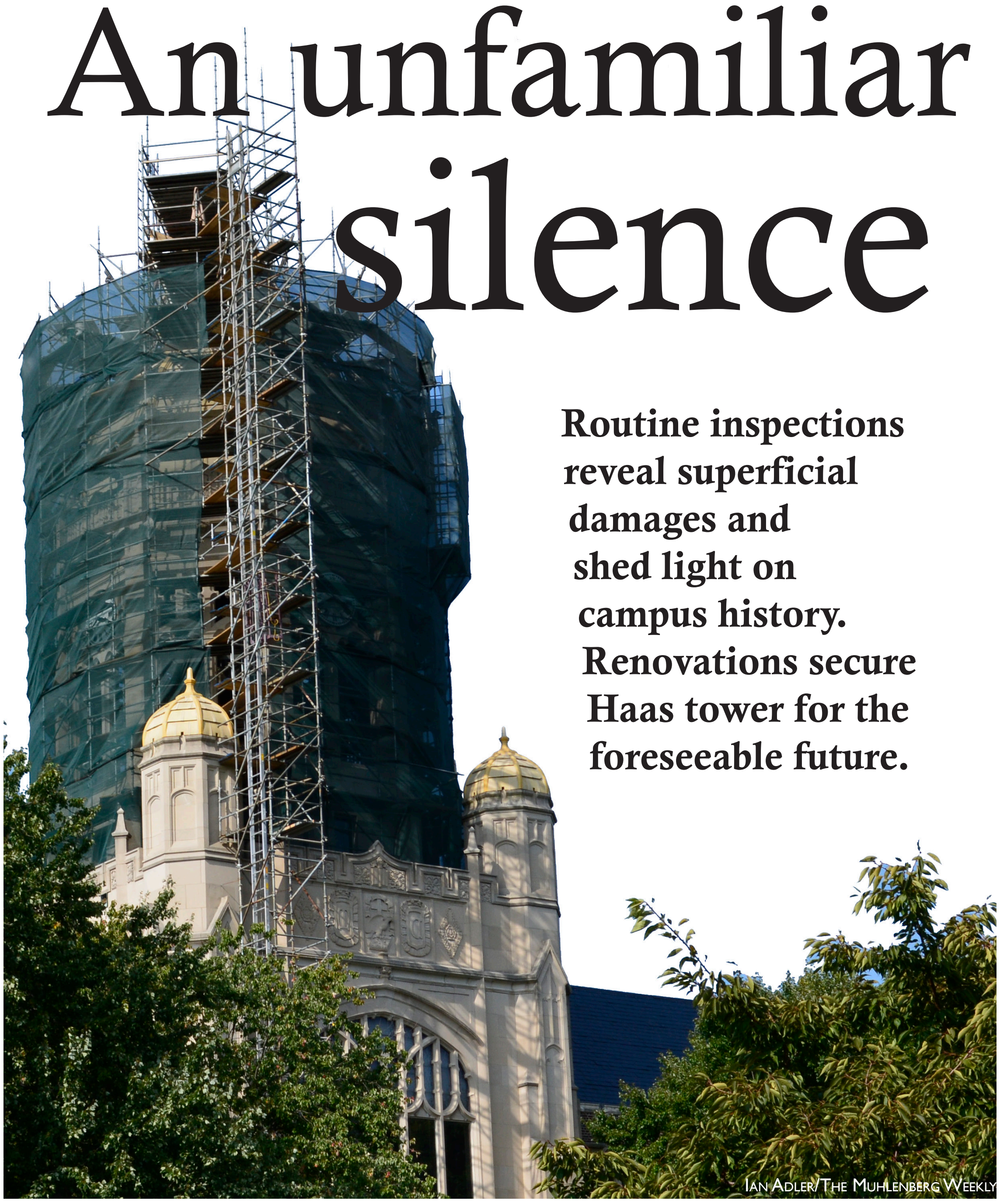
Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Athletics

An unfamiliar silence



Routine inspections reveal superficial damages and shed light on campus history. Renovations secure Haas tower for the foreseeable future.

Ian Adler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

A sheathed tower stands atop the Haas College Center, casting a shadow of restoration over campus. The scaffolding, completed last week, will give crew members their workspace for the next several months.

By Ian Adler
Asst. News Editor

It's another normal day of classes for Muhlenberg's recently returned student-body. As they make their way down academic row, the clock strikes noon, but an unfamiliar silence settles over the campus for this time of day.

This week, the renovation process will have officially begun on Haas College Tower, the pinnacle of architecture on Muhlenberg's campus. The project has been in the works for two years according to David Rabold, the college's Capital Resources Manager, after a routine maintenance inspection of the tower revealed damage to the limestone blocks that form the tower.

"Plant Operations decided to have the tower powerwashed," said Rabold. "When we cleaned off the limestone, it became apparent that the dirt was also

SEE **HAAS TOWER** | PAGE 5

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

A breakdown of what's next for the Obama-era immigration policy

By Ali Watson
News Writer

On Sept. 5, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the administration is rescinding a social program called DACA. This program is only one piece to the large issue of immigration in the United States, and has sparked a national conversation...

What is DACA?

By now most students have probably seen the signs sprinkled throughout Seegers Union and academic row defining DACA. But for those who have not, here is a quick refresher:

"The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy is social program that allows certain undocumented immigrants who moved to this country as minors to receive a renewable two year period of residency and eligibility for a work permit, with the acknowledgement that these students have largely been raised in the United States."

These young immigrants are commonly referred to as "Dreamers."

The DACA program has helped an estimated 787,580 undocumented immigrants become legal citizens of the United States.

Most of the Dreamers were brought to the United States

SEE **DACA** | PAGE 5

Glass box opens to student body

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

Students old and new alike may notice some changes to the lower level of Seegers Union. Specifically the expanded Career Center. While students were gone for the summer, construction was completed on the project that has been roughly a year in the making.

The new section of the Career Center was brought to fruition thanks to a grant from the George Alden Trust and working with other departments across campus. Executive Director Tom Dowd said "it was a really collaborative effort with different parts and people on campus" to obtain the funding.

Communications skills are essential ... we want a place that invites that coworking group dynamic.

The area encompasses part of the hallway and features things such as whiteboard walls and a large touch screen monitor. Both Dowd and Assistant Director Ryan Smolko are excited about the one button studio that the space has, as well as the capabilities that come with it. This will allow for virtual conferences, permitting recruiters and alumni to communicate with large groups via Skype.

"With the video conferencing, the camera is really sharp so if you're going to Skype someone into a presentation you can actually get a big group of students around here and see the people you're talking to," Dowd explained.

"Communications skills are essential to your success in the workplace and we want a place that invites that coworking, group dynamic. Also, as you're doing presentations you can

SEE **CAREER CENTER** | PAGE 4

Editorial

Why is climate change partisan?

Why are hurricanes and eclipses unquestioned but global warming so debated?

Last May, millions of people worldwide attended one of the many satellite Marches for Science, including our own Assistant News Editor Ian Adler. The topic headlined our final editions of the semester, and, given recent happenings, the subject comes once again to the forefront of conversation.

Since that first outcry of scientists, the United States has experienced not one, not two, but three near-supernatural abnormalities: a solar eclipse, and two category four hurricanes, all within two months.

Strangely — or rather, strange only in the context of the current dialogue surrounding this topic — no one in mainstream media has called into question science's reliability to predict these happenings. Instead, people drove across the country to get a cloudless view of the eclipse, watching safely through the recommended eclipse glasses or DIY viewers. Even the great climate change denier-in-chief took time out of his day to admire the eclipse (albeit without proper eye protection).

Less than a month later, Texans and Floridians alike evacuated their homes in piled-high minivans in bumper-to-bumper traffic. Social media became flooded with recognitions of safety and calls for humanitarian support. News stations broadcasted maps and radars of the storm and encouraged evacuation. And with the exceptions of Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter, no one claimed the hurricanes devastating the southern states to be 'fake news.'

Simply put, these events went unchallenged. No troup of anti-eclipsers protested the idea of letting children watch the eclipse, citing some obscure passage in the Bible or "research" from a Facebook blog about the harmful effects of exposure to solar eclipses on children as their excuse. No skeptics of the weatherman's inconsistent predictions dared plant themselves in the hurricane's path to champion the elitism of his education.

The denial of climate change science is no longer solely about scientific fact.

Where is that unanimous consensus in matters such as climate change? Or even in the movement to save our planet? The evidence supporting the theory that our climate is changing is not only overwhelming but widely supported by scientists in varying disciplines, departments and universities. Yet the topic is shrouded in doubt in the political realm, to the point it has become this administration's boogeyman.

Certainly, science itself is not a solely political topic. As Dr. Richard Niesenbaum, Professor of Biology and Director of the Sustainability Studies program said to Adler, scientists are actually reluctant to take a political stance due to the objective nature of their work, as many other scientists would agree.

"It's not a political agenda," said Niesenbaum, "Science is what turned us from a primitive society into an advanced society. Science created the internet. All the things we depend on came from science, so when you have political leaders denying the credibility of science and denying science as truth and as fact, it's crippling to the nation and to the world."

In other words, the denial of climate change science is no longer solely about scientific fact, like the eclipse or the hurricanes — it is a monetary, partisan agenda. Scientific research is only convenient when it supports our own views, or is not politicized at all. We embrace the process when it does something cool, like the eclipse or northern lights, but the instant it causes problems for companies like big oil, or patrons to certain politician's campaigns, suddenly it's controversial. This inconsistency on the side of those in denial of science undermines their entire argument against it. To trust the process one day and to renounce it the next is simply blowing hot air. Our current legislators may be able to talk up a hurricane, but they won't stand a chance against one. Science, not Silence.

Editorial Board

What's America without Dreamers?

By Val Weisler
Op/Ed Writer

In the midst of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, another national disaster has occurred this month. It is not one that will bring high tides, flooding and intense winds, but it will bring broken homes, separated families and a dependence on us to act to fix it. Last Tuesday, Sept. 5, Trump announced his plans to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA), an Obama-era immigration program implemented to protect undocumented immigrants who were brought into America as children, with a six month delay to give Congress time to act. Approximately 800,000 immigrants are currently benefitting from the program, which provides two year windows of protection and the possibility of a work permit.

There's no sacrifice by the government being made for them — they are making all the sacrifices.

According to data from Educators for Fair Consideration, which advocates for undocumented immigrants, 2.1 million people in the United States might qualify for DACA deferrals. The nonprofit also estimates that roughly 65,000 undocumented immigrants graduate from high school each year, but only 10,000 graduate from college. A large factor of this has to do with financial aid — DACA recipients are not eligible for federal financial aid, so they are forced to fund their college career solely out of their own pocket and private scholarships. For students like Victoria Cabellos '20, the end of DACA hits close to home. About 25 years ago, Cabellos's mother immigrated to America from Uruguay. She and her brother grew up in Washington, D.C., where her school was more than 60 percent Spanish and Latinx. "If you didn't speak two languages, you were the minority," Cabellos shared. An end to DACA means fear for her friends who call this country home. "They're saying they have to lay low because they're DACA recipients. It's terrifying when that's what I see. They're all amazing people, they're smart, they're contributing to society. There's no sacrifice by the government being made for them — they are making all the sacrifices. This is their home, this is where they grew up."

In a country that prides itself so much on the 'American Dream,' we must advocate for the DREAMers. It is our responsibility to band together and fight with every ounce of our being to save this program. In the next few months, unity, organization and resistance will be more crucial than ever. Attend protests. Join an immigration advocacy group. Get involved in the Multicultural Center. Educate yourself and talk about DACA. And most importantly, contact your representatives. Text DefendDACA to 877877 to find your representative to call.

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I Love Not Knowing the Answer

By Taylor Garrison
Op/Ed Writer

Picture this: class registration has begun for next semester and the classes you want to take are already full. You start to quickly scroll through the classes that still have open seats. Does this sound familiar yet? You decide to join a class that you know nothing about because the idea of not filling academic requirements makes your head hurt. Fast forward to the first day of that class. Your professor starts talking about the required readings and you realize something. You have absolutely no idea what they are talking about! You nervously scan the class, and everyone else is calmly writing notes. Here comes the panic!

This panic isn't exclusive to college, but it certainly comes with its own reasons for stressing out, like GPAs and scholarships. After a few semesters of college, I appreciate the feeling of not knowing. "Wait a minute! How? Why?" yells my freshman year self. Well, I have realized that not knowing can be an amazing learning experience which, in the long run, makes me a better student.

Consider the alternative to a class where you do not know much. We have all been in a class where you must read documents you know like the back of your hand. Maybe it is an intro class or one for your major; you feel on top of your game! You're learning, but it is not anything particularly new or revolutionary. It is easy to stick to what you know, but learning something you had absolutely no idea about is amazing! The feeling of having your mind blown is one of my favorite things about college. If my brain hurts after class, I count it as a good day of classes.

An interesting class rocking your whole world can be absolutely terrifying, though. The readings, homework, or whatever is required for class are usually hard. It can be hard to overcome the frustration this brings about. Aren't dense academic readings tough enough? There is certainly value in reading *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine every semester, but reading something for the first time makes me think more critically than I did before!

I decided to take a religion class this semester so that I could not know things. I want to learn new things! I won't lie: class can be terrifying when my professor asks a question and I haven't the slightest clue what the answer is.

The feeling of having your mind blown is one of my favorite things about college. If my brain hurts after class, I count it as a good day of classes.

I am embracing not knowing the answer, though! As a perpetual teacher's pet, this has certainly been a process. I am slowly teaching myself that there are instances where it is okay to not know. In the case of my class, I know it is because I haven't been exposed to these topics before. Plus, there are a lot of experts and I am not one of them; it is okay to not know the nuances of terms used because there are experts, including my professor, there to teach me.

After all, I go to class so that I can learn, not already know the answers. Get ready to have your mind blown!

What I Did This Summer Vacation

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Writer

My summer vacation was fun. I did a lot of fun things. I spent a lot of time with my family. My grandmamma came to visit and she gave me $20 for being so sweet. I put it in the bank because I am big and must save for a house. My brother helped me to read the book "Where the Wild Things Are." It was a good book but I did not understand things about it. What was the boy Max the king of? He wore a crown but never did king things. I hope to be able to read it again next summer on my own.

I did many things this summer. I went to the zoo. It was very nice to see all the animals. So many animals. I saw a lion a tiger and a bear. Oh my. Haha. That was a joke. I saw none of those animals. I did see an elephant and it was very big and then a bigger elephant came and the first elephant does not look as big anymore. The reptile room was very scary. I did not cry. That was a lie that the snakes told. My brother said he saw me crying but that was because HE was actually crying and not me and he was just looking at his tears on my face. He is the baby for crying at the snakes and not me. I actually like snakes and I don't want to talk about it. I did throw up where there was toads and frogs but I was not scared I was sick because I ate dip and dots and corn dogs.

I did throw up where there was toads and frogs but I was not scared I was sick because I ate dip and dots and corn dogs.

It was my birthday this summer. I went to the movies with a lot of friends. Josh, Derek, Bruce, and Kurtis were there. I am sorry if I did not invite you to this. I was not allowed to bring any girls because they slept over after and also my house is not big enough for more people. Josh got me a mood ring. Derek got me toy cars. Bruce got me a shirt that said "My other shirt is also awesome" and it has a cool dog on it with a skateboard. I am wearing it right now. Thank you Bruce. Kurtis got me socks. Kurtis is not my friend now. We watched *Ratatouille*. It was very funny. I liked when the old woman almost shot the main rat with a shotgun. Kurtis keeps saying I cried when the old woman was shooting Mr. Rat but I didn't. He is just being mean because he is mad at me. He's a liar and a bad friend.

On the last day of summer I went swimming in the ocean for the first time. It was scary. I saw a crab and it tried to hurt me. I ran away from it. A nice old man helped me find my family again. My mom made me give him my favorite shell I found as a thank you. The shell was very rare and worth a lot of money. I gave it to him anyway. I wish I didn't give him my money shell. When we went to leave I didn't want to go because I didn't want to be at school again. I ran into the ocean and swam to Europe. I don't remember getting to Europe but I did. My parents got me from Europe and brought me back to the beach where I woke up and my chest hurt a lot because of how much I was swimming.

I am ok to be back in school. My summer was fun and I hope it comes again soon. Thank you for reading, if you liked this please tell me in a note in my cubby hole or on Facebook.com.

Back
LUNCH
WILDFIRE GRILLE
Buffalo Chicken Meltdown
Garden Pesto Press
CHEW ST. DELI
Turkey Club Sub
Broccoli Cheddar Soup
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO
bite
Available on the App Store
GET IT ON Google play
Bite tells you everything

after downloading, search "Muhlenberg"

muhlenberg dining's new app tells you what's on the menu, what's for breakfast, lunch or dinner. know the menu items, their ingredients and more - including calories and nutritional info.

Campus Safety Notes

Wednesday, September 6
Suspicious Activity – 12:25 am
At East Hall, there was a report of the smell of marijuana. The area was checked and individuals were spoken to. Nothing could be found at this time.

Point of Information Report – 1:09 am
In Hass College Center, there was a report of an unsecure area. The area was checked, and everything appeared okay.

Injured Student – 08:58 am
In Trumbower, Second Floor, there was a report of an injured student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Theft – 3:30 pm
At Front Drive, there was a report of theft of a banner. The investigation is to continue.

Sick Student – 4:41 pm
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Fire Alarm Sounding – 11:19 pm
In Robertson Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from burnt food. The system was silenced and reset with no further incident.

Thursday, September 7
Fire Alarm Sounding – 11:02 am
In Walz Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from an accidental pull of the pull station. The system was silenced and reset.

Lost Property – 3:00 pm
At Seegers Union, there was a report of a lost wallet.

Test Report – 3:37 pm
At Prosser Hall, there was a test report for an unsecure area.

Disabled Vehicle – 8:16 pm
At Robertson Hall, in the South Fire Lane, there was a report of a disabled vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer successfully jump started the vehicle.

Fire Alarm Sounding – 9:31 pm
At 2442 Tilghman Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset with no further incident.

Fire Alarm Sounding – 11:11 pm
In South Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from burnt food. The system was silenced.

Noise Complaint – 11:14 pm
At an off campus location, there was a report of a noise complaint. Upon arrival, the occupants were identified and spoken to. There are no further incidents at this time.

Friday, September 8

Fire Alarm Sounding - 11:27 am
At East Hall, in the first floor bathroom, there was a report of fire alarm sounding from dust created by a worker. The system was silenced and reset with no further incident.

Interview at Headquarters – 7:22 pm
In Prosser Hall, at the Campus Safety Office, there was a report of an interview at headquarters. A report is to follow.

Fire Alarm Sounding – 9:49 pm
At East Hall, Third Floor, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from cooking. The system was silenced and reset with no further incident.

Saturday, September 9
Found Property – 2:19 am
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a found iPad. The iPad was returned to its owner.

Suspicious Person – 12:46 pm
At Cedar Beach Park, there was a report of a male wearing tan pants, a black shirt, and a red backpack who appeared homeless approaching two students. The man attempted to give them envelopes, which he said contained money.

Fire Alarm Sounding – 1:32 pm
In Brown Hall, First Floor Kitchen, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from cooking. The system was silenced and reset with no further incident.

Fire Alarm Sounding – 9:55 pm
At 407/409 North 23rd Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset with no further incident.

Noise Complaint – 11:37 pm
On Tilghman Street, there was a report of a noise complaint from an anonymous reporter.

Location Check – 10:07 pm
At Seegers Union, there was a report of a location check.

Fireworks Complaint – 10:58 pm
At Prosser Hall, there was a report of a fireworks complaint. The "snappers" were disposed of, and there were no further incidents. A report is to follow.

Sunday, September 10
Disruptive Conduct Violation – 12:29 am
On North 22nd Street, there was a report of a noise complaint with non-cooperative students. Allentown PD and Campus Safety issued Disputive Conduct Reports to all those involved, and city fines were also issued.

Sick Student – 1:05 am
In East Hall, first floor, there was a report of a sick student. Campus Safety transported the student to the hospital without incident.

Injured Student – 12:06 pm
In Village 1, there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and treated the student. The student refused further transport.

Fire Alarm Sounding – 1:54 pm
On Albright Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from cooking. The system was silenced and reset without further incident.
Medical Transport – 3:03 pm
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an injured student. Campus Safety transported the student to the hospital without further incident.

Noise Complaint – 3:41 pm
On Chew Street, there was a report of a noise complaint from loud music in the street. Campus Safety responded and the students quieted down without further incident.

The Weekly Staff wishes everyone a safe and happy weekend!

The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes 10 times a semester.
The schedule for Fall '17 is:

Sept. 14th
Sept. 21th
Sept. 28th
Oct. 5th
Oct. 19th
Oct. 26th
Nov. 2nd
Nov. 9th
Nov. 16th
Dec. 7th

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FROM **CAREER CENTER**
PAGE 1

work on those skills," Smolko said of the video conference capabilities.

In addition to video conferencing and virtual speakers the space will also be used to host workshops, have classes and panels. Clubs and professors are welcome to use and reserve the new room by calling, emailing, or stopping in the Career Center. It is also open for student use throughout the day.

"We keep the door open during the day if there's nothing happening in here — no meeting or presentation — it'll be open while we're here and you're welcome to come in," Dowd said. He continued to mention that the Career Center has drop in hours throughout the day, during that time the staff can often be found working in the new space alongside students and are available to answer questions.

> **"It'll be open while we're here and you're welcome to come in"**

With this open door policy the Career Center also has a new open layout. Featuring different study and work areas, all of which can be moved and rearranged.

"The way that it's modular I think is really cool. So you can make the room into a lot of different things depending on what someone wants to use it for," said Smolko. Dowd explained that modern office spaces are continuing to have a similar, collaborative environment.

While they are aware that the new furniture runs the risk of being damaged that is a risk that they are willing to take. "We try to treat the students with a lot of respect, and so our first thought wasn't that students were going to come in and mess this place up. It was: look at all the possibilities," said Dowd.

Smolko reiterated that the Career Center wants to become more engaged with students and build a relationship that can be carried throughout their time at Muhlenberg.

"We're here to help you with getting internships, find out career opportunities and where you want to go and what makes you happy," Smolko said.

As for how students have reacted to the new space, Dowd said that the response has been very positive; with a lot of curiosity and excitement from students, parents and faculty and staff.

FROM **HAAS TOWER**
PAGE 1

hiding lots of cracks in the limestone, at which point we engaged engineering firms to talk to us about analyzing what's going on. The bottom line is, it needs to be repaired."

With the tower's original completion in 1926, years of wind exposure have stressed the limestone, causing these cracks to form mostly vertical patterns within the blocks. However, Rabold says there is no real cause for concern.

"It was not at any risk," added Rabold. "There was nothing wrong with the building structurally."

The limestone blocks help protect the inner-workings of the tower, which are made mostly of steel. If the cracks were not fixed, water would be able to penetrate the outer-shell of the tower and erode the steel. Upon Plant Operations' inspection of the steel, Rabold explained that it was "in great shape," and there were no signs of "permanent damage."

In order to evaluate the extent of the repairs, the College first sought help from Philadelphia-based historical structure engineering firm Keast & Hood. Keast & Hood evaluated the structural integrity of the Tower, but not without help from Trexler Library's Special Collections and Archives Librarian Susan Falciani.

Falciani explained the Keast & Hood reached out to her for "close-up, original aspects of the building," a historical insight vital to the evaluation of the Tower's anatomy. Upon investigation of the Tower's architectural history, Falciani made several discoveries on the origin and uses for the Haas College Center and tower.

"I believe there used to be a lot of metal stacks that went up through the middle that could be up to six to eight floors," said Falciani. "The metal shelving wasn't a complete eight or 12 foot floor, it was shorter than that and there was an elevator that would take you up that was incredibly rickety, so you had to be careful how you stood in it."

Even back in the day, Muhlenberg seemed to struggle with the limited amount of space that the campus had offered. "The gymnasium was in the basement of Ettinger and there was a chapel room in Ettinger, everything was in Ettinger," said Falciani. "It was bursting at the seams."

Construction on the Haas Library wrapped up in 1926, introducing a new home for the countless collections of books formerly housed within Ettinger.

Named after Muhlenberg's longest serving president, John A.W. Haas, the building even predates the Chapel, a hallmark of Lutheran tradition on campus. Falciani attributes the campus' layout and appearance to Haas, driven by his motto "For a greater Muhlenberg."

From 1904 to 1936, John A.W. Haas saw the successful construction of both the Haas College Center and the Trumbower Science Building, among others.

"Ettinger and East had been the brainchild of the previous president, but Haas was very driven to a campaign of us becoming a real campus," said Falciani.

The second-most recent renovations began in 1987-88, marking the end of the legacy of the Haas Library and the beginning of the Haas College Center. Before the renovations, administration was housed in Ettinger, which used to be called the "Ad Building."

Other renovations and repairs have occurred between 1988 and 2017, but the evaluation that Keast & Hood conducted suggested years of mostly harmless, natural and unmonitored damage.

From there, Rabold reached out to Masonry Preservation Systems, who was contracted and tasked with completing the actual repair process. Rabold says that repairs are expected to last until the end of November.

The repairs themselves, as explained by Rabold, are a relatively routine and straightforward process. Rather than reinforce the rigid limestone, Keast & Hood developed a solution to avoid fighting the forces of nature even further.

"What we'll do is clean out the cracks, straighten them out and put in a sealant that's flexible," said Rabold. "While we're up there, we're going to redo the tower cover."

The concrete between the gold tiles that form the shell of the dome will also be cleaned, re-grouted and repaired as needed. Depending on the damage to each limestone block, a lime-concrete solution will be used to fill the crack, or a wire stitch will be used to ensure the structural integrity of each block. Some blocks may need no repairs at all, while some may even need to be replaced.

Rabold stressed the simplicity and routine nature of these repairs, explaining that in another 25 years, they will examine the structure and evaluate any repairs that may be needed then.

"The good news is we found the right team to do it and the team's doing it well — we're not cutting corners," said Rabold. "When we're done, we shouldn't have to worry about this for another 25 years."

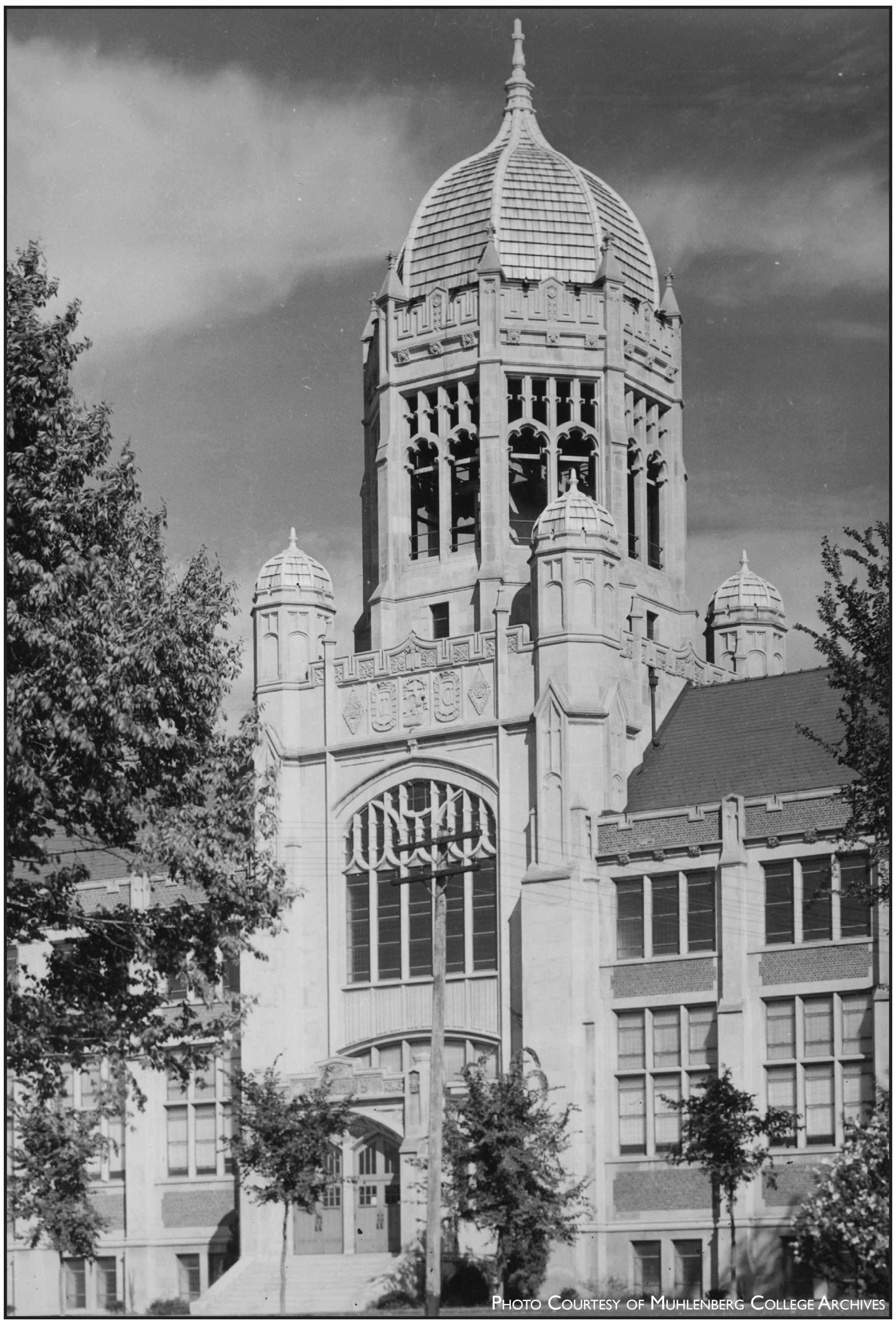
PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG COLLEGE ARCHIVES

FROM **DACA**
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with their parents. In order to be eligible, Dreamers need to have arrived in the United States before they have turned 16 and have lived in the U.S. since June 15, 2007. They also cannot have been older than 30 when the Department of Homeland Security enacted the policy. Most of the Dreamers are from Mexico but there are also many who have come from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Simply, the DACA program "shields" young immigrants from immediate deportation from the United States.

Common misconceptions:

DACA does not grant immediate citizenship to Dreamers. Instead, the program has created a pathway for Dreamers to enroll in college, legally secure jobs and acquire driver's licenses. Dreamers also pay income taxes.

What happened on September 5? What is happening to DACA?

As of this moment the DACA program has been stopped. There is also a current six month window for Congress to act before any currently protected individuals lose their ability to work, study or live in the United States.

Why is this happening? Where did this come from?

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has been a long time opposer of the DACA program. Ending DACA was also a promise left over from Trump's presidential campaign, but like many other aspects of Trump's policies, there is little consistency in his message. President Trump has previously stated he had "great love" for Dreamers. Many have even argued that Trump was advocating for the legality of the DACA program by sending it back to Congress. Whatever the rationale, the suspension of DACA does not and should not come as a galloping surprise.

What does this mean for the Muhlenberg Campus?

Both Dean Gulati and President Williams sent out responses to the Muhlenberg community last week voicing opposition to the Trump administration's decision to suspend the program.

"Students at many schools including Muhlenberg are directly impacted by this announcement about the DACA program. And in fact, it impacts all of us here because Dreamer students are vital members of our student community who bring talent, intellect, compassion and character to our institution," said Gulati on the effects of DACA on 'Berg's campus. Gulati continued on by saying – "The college, and I as the Dean, will continue to support these students to the fullest and will do whatever we are able to protect their ability to live and learn on our campus."

What can the Muhlenberg Community do in our school, city, and national communities?

Being informed and staying civically engaged is a primary way for students to be involved in political issues on both a local and national level.

President Williams urges the student body, and community at large, to "get to know one another, across the differences that can sometimes keep us apart." President Williams went on to say that "our nation is so divided now, even as we are growing more and more diverse."

"One of the things that excites me most is when I see members of our Muhlenberg community supporting one another and others (e.g., people in the greater Allentown community) and learning from one another in a united way; united across differences such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion and others," said Williams. "We continue to have work to do in this area, and we all play a part in forging ever stronger bonds."

While these political decisions are being made on a national level and can seemingly feel distant and far off, they are affecting communities everywhere, including Muhlenberg.

"For a Greater Muhlenberg"

Renovations on the Haas Tower inspire a highlight of John A.W. Haas' legacy

By Karl Schultz
News Writer

"This Week in Muhlenberg College History" will bring to light past events, individuals, and forgotten aspects of Muhlenberg history that have been buried within the College's 169 years of existence.

Whether you know it from its famous clock tower, recent construction, or were even temporarily confused by its title of "LIBRARY" over the doors, every Muhlenberg student knows of the Haas College Center. Very few, however, know the story of John A. W. Haas, fourth president of Muhlenberg College. As the Ciarla boasts in his first appearance as then President-elect, "Dr. John A. W. Haas is one of the foremost scholars and educators of the Lutheran Church in America."

Born in Philadelphia during the heat of the Civil War , John A.W. Haas was the son of the notable educator John C. Haas. Following in his father's footsteps, Haas would go on to get degrees from University of Pennsylvania and the Lutheran Seminary in Mount Airy. In 1888, he received his final degree from the University of Leipzig and was ordained a Lutheran Minister in New York City. In 1891, he married Charlotte Boschen, daughter of prominent Lutheran Publisher George D. Boschen.

A man of devout faith and notoriety, the Board of Trustees easily appointed Haas as interim president after the sudden death of Muhlenberg's second president, Theodore Seip in late 1903. Haas inherited a small college with a student body less than 100, a humble endowment equal to the college's debt, and was now heading the ongoing process of moving the college to the West End of Allentown, its current location.

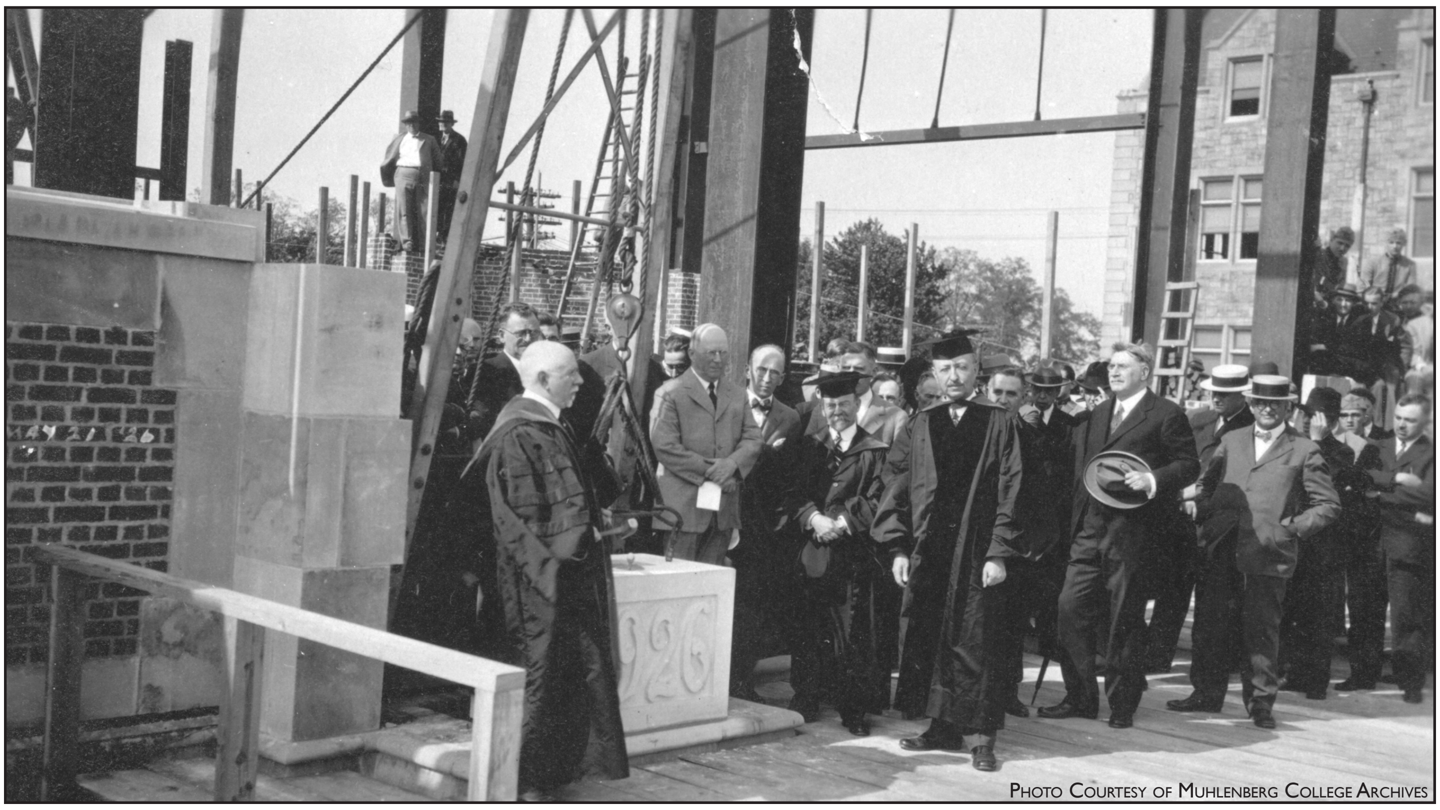


Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Archives

John A.W. Haas assists in the placing of the cornerstone for Muhlenberg's newly constructed library. The cornerstone ceremony took place in 1926.

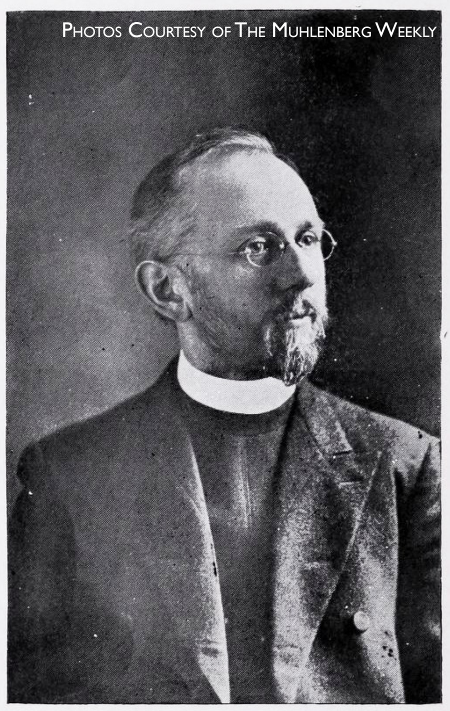
The college's low endowment and high construction costs led to all eyes being on Haas' leadership. A man of high intelligence and relatively young at the age of 41, Haas knew he had to make major changes and take Muhlenberg into the 20th Century. In his inaugural address to the College, now President Haas stressed the importance of the sciences in a 20th century world. While many colleges were still based around the classics of Greek and Latin, Haas grew the college to include pre-med and pre-law programs. He also founded the "Extension School," now Wescoe School, for the instruction of secondary school teachers; the school would even allow women to attend teacher training though they did not graduate with a Muhlenberg degree.

During his 32 year tenure, the longest in Muhlenberg's history, Haas continued his faith and Lutheran scholarship, but also tried to modernize the college to emerge it as a leader of 20th Century liberal arts colleges. He kept Muhlenberg to its Lutheran roots with weekly religious sermons on anything from social, political, or economic aspects of American life. In one speech, Haas encouraged the Muhlenberg Men to go to the movie theater less and instead use that time for silent reflection, prayer, and study. Though still very much a product of his old-school Lutheran upbringing, Haas was still a president of the people and was adored by students and faculty alike. By the end of his tenure, Haas was moreso seen as the campus grandpa instead of an elusive president. He was even given the nickname of "Pappy" and was known to use his cane to rap the desks of sleeping students. He once came up behind a sleeping Jack Blair '38, and after slapping the desk with his cane proclaimed, "The library is not a place for sleeping, it is a place for books!" Even when he would take time off from Allentown and retire to his Poconos cottage, he would still phone and write to the College daily.

In the summer before his final year at Berg, tragedy struck the Haas family. While vacationing in his Poconos cottage, the house erupted in flames in the early morning hours. Mr. and Mrs. Haas ran from the building, unaware President Haas' sister was still trapped inside. After both neighbors and firemen fought back the fire, it was clear his sister had not survived. The fire was not only a great personal loss for Haas, but an academic one. The fire also claimed many of his books and manuscripts as well as a draft of his newest book.

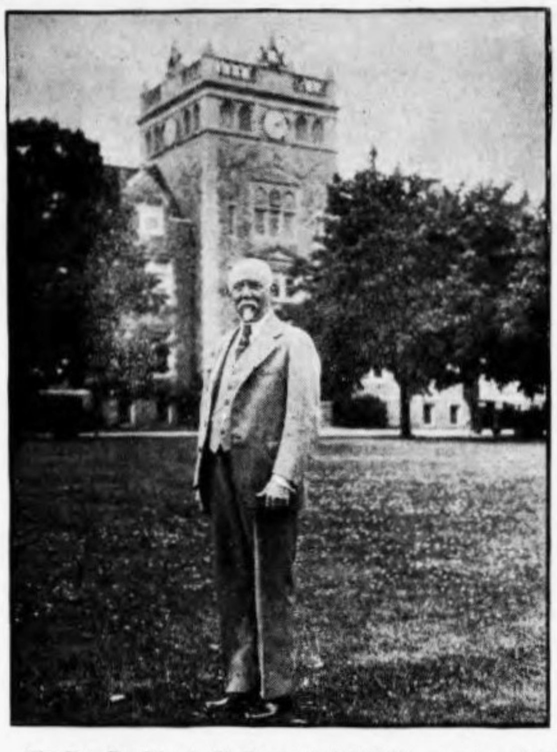
In his first year, Haas expressed his vision of a "Greater Muhlenberg" – he achieved this financially, academically as well as physically. In his last year at Muhlenberg, the incoming freshman class was at 150, larger than the entire College's enrollment at the beginning of his term. Enrollment grew to 400-500 students and 32 faculty. Nearly eliminating the College's debt, the endowment was raised to nearly $1 million and the entire College was valued at over $3 million. Apart from finances, Haas oversaw the relocation of the college, the completion of East hall and Ettinger Building, as well as the building of Egner Chapel, Trumbower Science Building and the aptly named Haas College Center, then the College Library

President Haas retired as Muhlenberg's president after the 1935-36 academic year, ending his record tenure. He passed away the following year while vacationing in upstate New York. His legacy has been remembered through not only the name of the College Center, but also The Dr. John A. W. Haas Award scholarship, given to a Junior who has proved outstanding scholarship during their three years at Muhlenberg.


Photos Courtesy of The Muhlenberg Weekly

Rev. John A. W. Haas, D. D.
The new President of Muhlenberg College.

Begins Last Year As President



The Rev. Dr. John A. W. Haas, who last Friday morning officially opened the college year for the last time as head of the institution. Muhlenberg this fall starts its sixty-ninth academic term. Last spring President Haas tendered his official resignation to the Board of Trustees to become effective at the end of the current school year.

Arts & Culture

“We have the oldest written constitution still in force in the world, and it starts out with three words, ‘We, the people.’”
– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Getting to know Hillel’s new director, Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz

By Gregory Kantor
Editor-in-Chief

This interview has been edited and condensed.

The Muhlenberg Weekly: Introduce yourself to the Muhlenberg community.
Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz: “Well, I really love being on campus and love working with students. I have worked with students throughout my professional career, even as a congregational rabbi when the ‘students’ are much younger. I was also the president of a rabbinical school [the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC)], which was filled with graduate students, and there’s a wide age-range in that population. I served as the interim Hillel director at Wellesley and I’m excited to be back on a campus again.”

MW: You have quite the impressive resume, filled with appearances on Newsweek’s list of the “50 Most Influential American Rabbis” and long tenures at both B’nai Keshet and then as president of the RRC. Can you explain how those experiences translate to working as a Hillel director, something you did at Wellesley and now do at Muhlenberg?
DE: “First, and most importantly: these jobs are about relationships. The importance of developing relationships has been very meaningful and I bring that to this position and to Muhlenberg. Another important part, especially in terms of being an interim, is that you come into a position for a year, and you need to quickly understand both the organization – in this case, Muhlenberg College – and also how Hillel fits into it. My past positions serve me well to be able to quickly pick up what I need to know to do just that.

MW: Although you’ll only be on our campus for a short time, what are you looking to bring or change to Muhlenberg’s Hillel?
DE:“This year, I want both Jewish life on campus and our students to have a stellar experience. The fact that for one year, the Hillel director is interim should not mean that ‘Ok, Hillel doesn’t matter;’ really, this should be a great year for Muhlenberg students and our Jewish students, and I should be able to significantly contribute to that. Also, one of the things that I think about as an interim is ‘What can I do this year that will help the individual who comes into this position next year?’”

MW: Notably, you are a rabbi of Reconstructionist movement, which, even on a campus where one-third of the students are Jewish, is certainly not as well-known as the three major movements in modern Judaism (Reform, Conservative and Orthodox). Can you describe Reconstructionism and how it differs from the other movements?
DE: “The Reconstructionist definition of Judaism is that Judaism is an evolving, religious civilization. It means that Judaism has elements that are not usually associated with a religion, such as Jewish and Yiddish literature, Jewish comedy, dance, food, as well as things like land and language. These are elements that we tend to think of as part of a civilization or culture. But Judaism is this amalgam of these elements, and the Reconstructionist definition understands that religion has played a central role in this civilization. It’s not enough just to say that it’s a civilization, which downplays the significance that religion and religious life has played, so the definition includes this ‘religious civilization.’ It also includes ‘evolving,’ which is to say that Judaism has changed significantly over time and will continue to grow and change.”

“So why is this important? Well, for one thing, it understands that like any other civilization or religion, that it’s the product of the people, like the question ‘who creates American civilization?’ Well, Americans! And so there might be arguments about ‘who is an American’ –we’re having many of those arguments these days. But there’s an overall understanding that the civilization is created by the people. So, as I come into Muhlenberg and our Hillel and ask, ‘who are the Jewish people here?’ I’d say, ‘anyone contributing to Jewish life,’ because that’s fundamentally what Judaism is. People are contributing to Jewish life in these wonderful and creative ways, and for me, that’s how Reconstructionism colors the way that I relate to this job.”

MW: Finally, how did you hear about Muhlenberg? And since your arrival, has anything impressed you about either our Jewish life or campus in general?
DE: “What I always remember hearing about Muhlenberg is that it was a special campus that had done an unusually nice job of creating [a] great life for its Jewish students. I also knew about it in terms of its significantly-sized Jewish population.”

“Muhlenberg is a really warm, welcoming place. It’s very clear that everyone wants me to succeed, and more importantly, for Jewish life on campus to succeed. It was really meaningful that the College held a welcome reception for me, and that the president took time from his schedule to introduce himself and offer support. Also, my Hillel staff has been incredibly helpful. When you walk into a job for only a year, you can only hope that you’re going to have individuals who will help everything go smoothly. Finally, I’ve been impressed by the students. It’s been really nice meeting everyone, even from the beginning during the interviews, and we’ve had great attendance at programs as well.”

BERG HILLEL RUNS ON BAGELS

Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg College

Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz welcomes all students to Hillel as the newly appointed Hillel Director.

HILLEL
WELCOMES
BERG
STUDENTS
THE LEFFELL
JEWISH ST
FIRE DEPT. HOSE CONNECTION

Notes and nerves:

A capella audition week

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

It's finally the weekend.

Ordinarily, this would be a time for you to relax and make up for time lost to homework during the previous five days, but this weekend is special. You've already braved the claustrophobic lines at the Activities Fair, reaching the tables in the center of the room to sign your name and write your email with as much confidence as you can muster before retreating back into the safety of the anonymous crowd. You've already spent hours attempting to quietly hit the notes of your favorite song without incurring the wrath of your fellow hall-mates, or maybe you've found your way to a practice room to let them go without inhibition, the melodies flying free only to mix with dozens of others in a strange and beautiful cacophony.

Whatever steps you've taken to get here, there's no denying that it's go time. As you frantically attempt to come up with something witty to say for each daunting blank space on the sheet you're given, you gather your senses. Inhale, exhale.

Someone opens the door, and your a capella audition begins.

Each year, hundreds of students flock to the Center for the Arts in the hopes that they will be able to join the ranks of one of Muhlenberg's seven singing groups: the Chaimonics, InAcchord, the Dynamics, the Acafellas, the Girls Next Door, Noteworthy, and Live in Color.

Every group has its own individual sound and identity; some, like the Girls Next Door and Acafellas, only take members of one gender, while others, like Noteworthy, specialize in a specific types of music. Though the groups creates their own selection processes, the overall pattern of auditions, as described by Girls Next Door member Allie Benbenek '20, is similar for each.

"A capella auditions consist of students auditioning separately for each group and singing a verse and a chorus of a song that best fits [their] range," Benbenek said. "After all the auditions are over, each group decides who they like and want to see again, and then those students get called back for another round. At callbacks, each student usually sings a contrasting song from the one they auditioned with, and then learns a snippet of one of the group's arrangements to listen for blend-ability and accuracy. When those are done, the groups then decide who they want in the group."

"The groups are looking for musical ability to be sure, but they're also looking at personality, and they're hoping that you're what they're looking for."

This decision, however, is not made lightly – dozens of factors are taken into account, and some groups spend hours agonizing over even the initial callback lists. As Laura Santo '20 of Noteworthy recounts, the task of narrowing down prospective auditionees casts a slight shadow on the excitement of augmenting the group.

"My favorite part of auditions this year was the anticipation of adding new people into our group, and wondering which one of the students coming in to sing for us it would be. The most challenging part was facing the reality of cutting down the number of those who auditioned to make a callback list," said Santo. "No one in the audition room who is listening wants you to perform badly. The groups are looking for musical ability to be sure, but they're also looking at personality, and they're hoping that you're what they're looking for."

This was a common thread that ran throughout each interview: every group has nothing but the best in mind for their auditionees. The intimidation factor that comes along with the power dynamic of Berg's Got Talent and the panel-style audition process creates a veil between current and prospective members that can seem almost impossible to reach through. Still, it is helpful to keep in mind, as Girls Next Door member Gwen Wilkie '20 points out, that each and every group member was once in the position of auditionee.

"[Auditioning last year] made me nervous as every audition does, but it was a very positive experience. The atmosphere was very relaxed and I felt as though it went really well and I enjoyed talking to the group," Wilkie said. "Don't be so intimidated or nervous! We are just girls like you who had to go through the same thing. It is not life and death; it's an opportunity to sing a song, so just have fun."

Though having fun might be easier said than done, it's a reminder worth hearing – auditions, while certainly taxing, are fundamentally a chance to put yourself out there and gain new experiences with people you might not have otherwise met. Whether or not that audition results in membership isn't at the core of its substance.

Auditioning means that you had the courage to show off what you have, to allow other people into an aspect of your life that you likely love and hold dear. That is no simple feat, especially when combined with the laser-focused gaze of people you likely barely know – and accomplishing that feat in and of itself should make you extremely proud.

You are here.

You did it.

You asked to be listened to, and you were heard.

The ignorant tune: How instrumental music is assumed as unconscious and unaware

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

What is 'art' if not a representation? Yes, words such as 'expression' and 'feeling' come to mind, but this is essentially a question of 'definition' and 'presentation.' Or, to be more precise, it is a question of intent.

How does one define intent? For the purposes of this article, I define the word as a certain persuasion, or better yet, a desire for a specific action to be. 'To be,' that is, to exist in the preferred mind-set of the 'actor.'

Therefore, I suppose art is a representation of sorts, but the question asked previously is not whether it is but what could it be if not representation? While attending class at some point in the early weeks of September, a professor of mine inspired me with an intriguing phrase: "art is not innocent."

"Art is not innocent.."

Once again, the question of intent returns. Innocence suggests not only ignorance, but also denial. To say art is "not innocent" is to say that art has an ulterior motive, or even more so, a self-awareness.

If I were to name a medium that would be the most excused and side-termed 'innocent,' I would argue that instrumental music might just win out over the written word.

Music without the lyric is often assumed as, if not innocent, then unmentionable.

For instance, you give a random person two music excerpts to listen to, then later ask them what they learned. Let's assume one piece is Taylor Swift's "Blank Space," and the other is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Clarinet Concerto in A Major" (suppose the first movement).

"Lyrics...serve as a means of interpretation... from the music to the audience..."

Most likely, the individual will be able to describe in detail what "Blank Space" means and perhaps even further analyze and interpret the artist's intentions and meaning behind the piece. With Mozart, the listener would probably resort to explaining the 'feeling' emulated from the excerpt. Music, like the generalized term 'art,' is often first associated with emotion. How does the music make you feel?

Lyrics, in some ways, serve as a means of interpretation of the emotion emitted from the music to the audience in question.

This is not always the case.

In some instances, the lyrics serve as a counter to the emotion being generated by the orchestration. A good example of this would be Stephen Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," in which two of the characters sing a dance like tune (similar to that of a waltz), while the lyrics themselves express a horrific plot to cook people and feed them to their customers.

Here, we have the music projecting one emotion, while the lyrics portray a completely different scenario.

With this mixture, we have a good, solid example of irony.

Even with the lyrics used as a translation of sorts, the instrumental part is often set aside, simply defined as 'accompaniment.'

This leads me to the essential purpose of this particular article. There are many ensembles on this campus; ensembles that each express various emotions, representations, and intentions throughout the year. I highly encourage you to see at least one. Attempt to hear beyond the mask of unconsciousness; music exceeds mediums of understanding that you may not have even considered before. As you continue on your fourth week of fall semester, try and remember:

"Art is not innocent," nor is the music we listen to unconscious.

Muhlenberg goes to the dogs: Woofstock 2017

By Emily Davidson
Op/Ed Editor

This past Saturday, there was one common denominator that literally brought together all walks and breeds of life in the Allentown community: dogs. The 6th Annual Allentown Woofstock hosted by the Friends of the Allentown Parks at Cedar Beach Park attracted enthusiastic owners and their furry, four-pawed best friends. This annual event, which has been held since 2011, raises money for the establishment of Allentown's very own dog park, in addition to supporting Friends of the Allentown Parks.

A single five minute walk separated Muhlenberg's campus from Cedar Beach Park, which was laden with an impressive, tail-wagging population. As an avid fan of Doggie De-stressor Day, my attendance at this event was inherent, compulsive, and absolute.

Owners and their pooches, both leashed and unleashed, were the highlight of the event. Dogs of all shapes, sizes, ages, and breeds congregated with their owners across the entire expanse of Cedar Beach Park. Particular breeds were very well-represented at this event, including German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers, Corgis, French Bulldogs and all shades of Labrador Retrievers.

There was no shortage of entertainment on that mild, late summer afternoon. Various vendors and organizations lined up along the park's tree line, featuring homemade dog treats, dog-centric clothing and dog-focused pottery.

If you did not have your own dog or wanted to add a furry friend to your family, both puppies and adult dogs were up for adoption by the Lehigh Valley Humane Society, who introduced them and described the circumstances from which they were rescued, inviting passersby to sanitize their hands and get acquainted with the dogs up for adoption.

Service and rescue dogs were also showcased at this event, with demonstrations hosted by the arson dog of Allentown's Fire Department, the Allentown Police Department K-9 unit and Wolfpack Search and Recovery. A silent auction was also featured. For the more active dogs, canine sporting events featured dog baseball, basketball and relays.

I had the pleasure of getting acquainted with Tucker, a vibrant Golden Retriever puppy who I met on the tennis court. Meanwhile, as another owner of an older golden retriever bonded with Tucker's owner, remarking how little Tucker is now and how before they knew it, he would be growing into his paws and might be three times his current size.

"...As a college student, I don't get to see dogs nearly enough. It was heaven on earth to be surrounded by so many!"

Many Muhlenberg students attended the event, encouraged by the beautiful day and the opportunity to engage with so many dogs. Becca Finkelman '18 remarked how, "It was a beautiful day to take a break from work and pet a good amount of dogs from all different breeds."

Val Weisler '20 was also in attendance, and described her motivation for attending. "I attended because as a college student, I don't get to see dogs nearly enough. It was heaven on earth to be surrounded by so many!"

Val continued, proclaiming how "[she] also loved that the whole event was for the dogs, from the band performing 'Working Like A Dog' to the dog treat vendors."

After all, this event was truly oriented towards man's best friend — raising the funds necessary to facilitate the creation of an Allentown dog park that would habitually allow these dogs and owners to gather together, making the fulfilling interactions between humans and their dogs all the more apart of life in the Allentown community.

FRENCHIE
KISSES
FBRN

Photos Courtesy of Arielle Waxman

Savant overcomes injuries to secure spot in the record books

Mules running back has career day against conference rival Wilkes

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

Nick Savant '18 only needed two and a half quarters to remind the Wilkes University football team that he wasn't the same player who suffered a season-ending injury that forced him to hang up his helmet freshman year. In fact, he had nearly doubled his 54 yard total against Wilkes from 2014 before the end of the first quarter—rushing 41 yards and 54 yards, respectively, for the first two Muhlenberg touchdowns of the game. Savant would score three more touchdowns in the season opener, including one that aided Mike Hnatkowsky '21 in becoming the first Muhlenberg quarterback to throw a touchdown on his first pass in at least the past 50 years, and possibly ever.

Savant did in half a game what other players can't achieve in a full one. Playing just over two quarters, he tied his own records with five touchdowns and 30 points in one game. He was within six yards of breaking two records; amassing 277 rushing yards would've broken both the school record for yards in a game, which he currently holds, and the Centennial Conference record for yards in a season opener. Savant also became just the sixth player in Centennial Conference history to total 350 all-purpose yards in a game. As if these exploits weren't enough history-making for Savant, his scoring plays of 41, 54, 50 and 70 yards made him the first Muhlenberg player with four touchdowns of 40 yards or more in a game.

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg College Athletics

Savant (#32) brushes off a defender. He ended up in the endzone four times, while collecting over 40 yards on each of his touchdowns.

His efforts against the Colonels made him an easy selection for Centennial Conference offensive player of the week. In total, Savant rushed 18 times for 271 yards and caught two passes for 80 yards in the Mules' 62-19 win over Wilkes. His 351 all-purpose yard performance broke the school record of 344 previously set by current assistant coach Joshua Carter in 2000.

"Setting records was great and it's just as exciting to see them broken. You take a lot of pride as a coach seeing your players reach milestones in their careers," said Carter on Savant's success. "Nick has faced a ton of adversity throughout his career and he has met every challenge head on and came out on the other side of them as a better player and better person than he was prior to. Watching him climb all of the career charts is a privilege to be involved in and, as he continues to set the standards, we as a team look to do the same in terms of getting wins."

The adversity Carter speaks to can be traced back to Savant's sophomore year of high school at Saucon Valley. He missed his second season due to a broken collarbone and a partially torn hamstring. Savant came back and was named Lehigh Valley Live Athlete of the Year for 2014 as a senior. But in the first game of his collegiate career, he was sidelined after just seven carries, missing the rest of the season with a foot injury. He's come back from that as well, setting records and then breaking his own. But this past weekend he again missed half a game, this time due to an undisclosed injury. How this constant back-and-forth of injury and success will bode for the remainder of Savant's senior season is hard to tell. As far as the upcoming game against Susquehanna on Saturday, Savant will be ready to play, according to Athletic Director and Acting Head Coach Corey Goff.

"Nick is obviously a very talented player who has been able to accomplish great things in his career, what makes him so valuable to our program are the reasons for his success," said Goff. "Nick is a gifted athlete but what makes him so much better than other gifted athletes is his relentless work ethic, his tireless pursuit of excellence in every aspect of preparation for a football game and season. He is dedicated to proper nutrition, he works incredibly hard in the classroom, on the field, on the track and in the weight room. As a coach, you hope your most talented players also have great character and work ethic so other members of the team can benefit from the example those players set."

Just two games in, Savant is clearly a force to be reckoned with this season. He currently leads the Centennial Conference in scoring and all-purpose yards. He's second in rushing yards, despite rushing only 27 times, which is at least 20 less than any other player in the top five.

If his injuries stay at bay for the remainder of his final year, Savant has the chance to become one of the most productive running backs in Muhlenberg football history.

Tornetta and Mullins awarded in opening week

Pair of junior athletes shine in first slate of games this season

By Brandon Kossin
Sports Writer

Only a week into the 2017 academic school year and Muhlenberg Athletics has already captured two Centennial Conference Player of the Week honors. Cross country runner Corey Mullins '19 and volleyball star Kelly Tornetta '19 both received the CC Athlete of the Week honors. Both of these athletes understand the recognition associated with this award, and have the utmost appreciation for the committee that has decided to present them with this honor.

Mullins performance in this past week's race at Lehigh was sensational. The race was not limited to Division III participants, rather many Division I teams were thrown into the mix. Despite the immense amount of Division I talent that would be racing, Mullins was still able to stand out. He finished tenth overall, and the first Division III athlete to finish in the race. When asked about how he got to this point in his cross country career, Mullins responded by saying, "The little things really make a world of difference in performance during practice and meets. Even though it can get definitely get tedious and annoying, it really builds foundational discipline that can apply in all facets of my life."

Mullins acknowledges the praise he has received since being awarded the accolade. He feels that it brings out his competitive side, which makes him want to work harder and strive for more success each day playing the sport. "There are so many great people and athletes in the conference, which Muhlenberg sometimes races every other week. It creates a great atmosphere of competition and it's really just awesome I got recognition for it," said Mullins. "I also hope other runners in the conference can step up and challenge me – it just makes it more fun for everybody," he added. With his hard work and dedication, there is no reason not to believe that Mullins will receive more Centennial Conference awards.

The Muhlenberg Women's Volleyball Team finished opening week with a 4-0 record, sweeping the competition during Battlefield tournament in Gettysburg. Tornetta took the modest approach, when asked about her performance and what made her standout. She prides herself on consistently playing her best, and developing the skills that she constantly works on to make her game better. "It means a lot to be recognized as an Athlete of the Week because it means that a lot of hard work is paying off. My team and I have put in a lot of work in the off season and it's really starting to show in our play," Tornetta explained.

If all goes well, records may be broken and conference championships may be in sight.

One of the most impressive aspects regarding Tornetta's tremendous first week of action is that she was nursing an injury that limited her ability to train in the offseason. "Throughout it all my team had my back," Tornetta said about what helped her push through the unfortunate circumstance. Nonetheless, when faced with adversity, like her sustained injury, her only aspiration was to get back on the floor and compete out there with her team. Now that she is back in action, this Muhlenberg Women's Volleyball squad is poised to have an amazing year, one better than any before. "All I can do is keep pushing myself and my team throughout the season, hopefully all the way to the conference championship. I'll continue to give my team everything I have on the court, and support them throughout the season. We are such a young and passionate team; I hope the conference is ready for us," Tornetta said.

Muhlenberg Athletics are definitely kicking off the school year in the right direction with so much success this early in the season. If all goes well, records may be broken, and conference championships may be in sight. Congratulations again, to both Corey Mullins and Kelly Tornetta, on being named Centennial Conference Athlete of the Week.

FROM **GOFF**
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keep responsibilities of the staff in order, ensuring another coach will not have to take on additional responsibilities. "Ultimately, [Donnelly] and I felt this option gave our student athletes the best chance to have a positive experience this fall," Goff said.

Goff says his transition from one job to two within the Muhlenberg athletics department has been positive so far. "It has gone relatively smoothly," Goff said. Decisions made for the football program have been joint. Goff and Donnelly communicate and Coach Goff is adamant that "regardless of his physical location, I felt strongly our interim solution should leave no doubt that Mike Donnelly is and will remain Muhlenberg's head football coach."

When asked about finding a balance in being committed to both jobs, Goff talked about staying as reachable as possible. After all, his office door in the Life Sports Center is always open. "I serve our student athletes and my colleagues in the athletic department. My goal has been to remain accessible and committed to the larger goals of our department while working with our talented football coaches to ensure the best experience possible for our players," Goff emphasized.

"Regardless of his physical location, I felt strongly our interim solution should leave no doubt that Mike Donnelly is and will remain Muhlenberg's head football coach."

Goff also acknowledges the importance of others at Berg and also those in his personal life stepping up during this shift which has allowed such a smooth transition. First and foremost, he credits his wife, Lauren. "(She) has essentially taken on the role of sole caregiver for our family from August to November. There is no way I would have been able to take on this load were it not for her selflessness." Another big credit Goff gave was to The Duke himself. "Despite his medical leave, Donnelly and I talk almost daily about the administration of our football program. He is able to watch film of practice and games then pass along his thoughts and observations to the assistant coaches and I. Mike has been a trusted colleague, mentor and friend for over 15 years. Having frequent, meaningful communication with him during this transition has been invaluable," said Goff.

As far as the 'Berg football program responding to this season, Goff kept his thoughts simple. "Incredibly well."Although winning is of utmost importance, Goff doesn't want to lose sight of the bigger picture the team is experiencing this year. "We have tried to use this as an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of perseverance, the need for others to step up if a family member, coworker or teammate is down or in need. Whether you are a salesmen, the lead in a musical, the starting shortstop or the head football coach… if one person is unable to perform others need to rise up and do the job," Goff explained.

The experience that Goff has embarked on is certainly time consuming and stressful, but he also finds it rewarding. "I have really enjoyed the opportunity to work more closely with student athletes on a daily basis. This experience has also reminded me first hand of the emotional investment our coaches of all sports make in the success of their student athletes and their teams," said Goff. He also keeps his sense of humor. His favorite part of his 2017 roles? "The view, best seats in the house."

Volleyball splits in annual Buttermaker Tournament

Mules score victories against SUNY Cortland and Virginia Wesleyan

BY ALEX HOROWITZ
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

The Muhlenberg Mules volleyball team hosted its annual Buttermaker Tournament last weekend. In addition to Muhlenberg, the other teams that played in the tournament were SUNY Cortland, Stevenson, Cabrini, Neumann and Virginia Wesleyan. Despite the fact that the Mules split wins on each day of the tournament, Head Volleyball Coach Alexa Keckler was happy with how the Mules played over the two days.

"I was pleased with all we were able to accomplish and discover this weekend. There were a lot of talented teams here which helped us to learn a little more about the team we are now and the team we can be in the coming weeks," Keckler said.

All three teams that Muhlenberg played in this tournament are out-of-conference opponents, so they're not too familiar to this group of current players. Despite the rarity in opponent, the Mules were still excited to have the opportunity to play these teams. The Buttermaker Tournament is annually looked forward to by the volleyball team, and as such, these teams each offered a unique challenge to the Mules. Keckler noted how Cortland, Cabrini and Virginia Wesleyan all made the team more prepared for when conference play begins soon.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG COLLEGE ATHLETICS

The Muhlenberg Mules volleyball team celebrates after winning one of its two matches in this weekend's tournment. This year's Buttermaker Torunament featured a six team round robin that showcased some of the top Mid-Atlantic volleyball teams in Division III.

"This tournament is a great way to push our abilities and discover what we are capable of as we head into conference play. It also gives us the opportunity to work out the kinks and see what we are made of," said an excited Head Coach Keckler.

Because this tournament only occurs once a year, the Mules put in a great deal of work to find quality opponents to play. The tournament offers an opportunity for the Mules to play teams they wouldn't see otherwise during the typical schedule. Although the school brought in competitive teams for this year's event, it's certainly not a quick or simple task. Keckler explained that it takes a diligent effort by Muhlenberg's athletic administration in order to bring in such top-notch teams.

"It takes a lot of work on the back end to make this event successful. From the amazing staff who helps us set up the sport courts to the administration that supports all the teams, it truly takes a village. Our athletic training staff is here almost round the clock, our baseball team offers their help to work the matches and of course our sports information department who stats the matches and runs a live feed for our Muhlenberg fans to support from afar," she explained.

On day one of the tournament, the Mules defeated SUNY Cortland handily in three sets, then battled against Stevenson to the decisive set before finally falling in the fifth set. Day two saw Cabrini sweep the Mules in the first match. But the Mules fought back in their last game of the tournament, defeating Virginia Wesleyan three sets to one.

Although both wins by the Mules were impressive, head coach Keckler especially was proud of the team for its contest against the top-ranked Stevenson squad.

"I think my favorite part from this year was to see our team, with no seniors, take a historically dominant team with many upperclassmen to five sets. It says a lot about our talent and all that we can accomplish," she said.

Now that this highly anticipated tournament has come to its conclusion, the Mules will move on the heat of the season. The tournament was a great start to season, but there is much more to come over the next two months. Keckler sees much room for improvement in this team.

"We must be in better physical shape to outlast the tougher teams. We also saw how deep our team is...every member played at some point this weekend and every member contributed to the success we were able to have on the court; that is pretty amazing."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

SPORTS

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Filling in for a legend: Corey Goff takes on temporary new role

COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

Acting Head Coach & Director of Athletics Corey Goff at the team's first practice.

BY MATT RIEBESELL
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Corey Goff has always been a familiar face on the sidelines of all sports at Muhlenberg College. During his tenure at 'Berg, Goff's presence has been wide spread; he's held multiple jobs within the athletics department.

The sidelines of Muhlenberg's football stadium are where Goff actually started his 'Berg career as an assistant football coach from 2000 to 2005. He became the offensive coordinator in 2001 and served in that role until 2005. In 2003, Goff took on a second role as the assistant director of athletics, which lasted until 2008. From there, Goff moved from the sidelines to the top step of the dugout. His first season as the head baseball coach for Muhlenberg was in 2007, and his time with the team at Cedar Creek Park lasted until 2012 when he became the full-time director of athletics.

This year, at Scotty Wood Stadium and Frank Marino Field, Goff will be on the sideline for all five home games, which in itself is not out of the norm. But Goff is serving in a brand new role this year. There is a bit of a reunion. It comes with some new equipment, new gear, and a new title. Now on Saturday afternoons, whether the Mules play at home or away, Goff can be seen on the sidelines with a headset on, wearing Muhlenberg Football attire, and preforming special assistant/acting head coach duties.

After the unfortunate leukemia diagnosis of Head Coach Mike Donnelly, both he and the team that had been under his reign since 1997 face a mighty fight to beat all of their opponents. Coach Donnelly's fight started in Buffalo on Aug. 28 for his leukemia treatment. The Mules' fight started with a big win over Wilkes, and another week two win over Dickinson.

The Muhlenberg coaching staff found themselves needing to fill a temporary vacancy during Donnelly's departure for treatment. "Most importantly, [Donnelly and I] wanted to find a short-term solution that would allow for seamless transitions on both ends of Coach Donnelly's time away from the team," Coach Goff explained about the decision process to take on the role as acting head coach.

The result of the decision process ended with Goff becoming the acting head coach, and the hiring of a new assistant coach and interim defensive coordinator Kory Davis. Adding Davis to the coaching staff is very logical. Davis has been coaching football for over 15 years and was most notably on Andy Reid's Philadelphia Eagles staff from 2011 to 2013 as a linebackers and special teams assistant. Goff mentions that looking out for the assistant coaches was factored into the thought process for sculpting the 2017 coaching staff. "[Donnelly and I] sought a solution that would allow our assistant coaches to remain focused on their primary responsibilities so we did not weaken the team in other areas," said Goff. Coach Donnelly was the primary defensive play caller for the Mules in seasons past, thus the prime fit for Davis. The addition will

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Football	**Men's Soccer**	**Women's Soccer**	**Field Hockey**
VS	VS	VS	VS
Sat. Sept. 16 at 1:00 pm	Sat. Sept. 16 at 6:00 pm	Sat. Sept. 16 at 3:00 pm	Sat. Sept. 16 at 12:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium	@ Lancaster PA	@ Lancaster PA	@ Lancaster PA

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE
Homecoming

PEP RALLY
Thursday, September 14th at 8:00pm in Memorial Hall
Join the Muhlenberg Cheerleading Squad to kick off the Homecoming Festivities!

HOMECOMING DANCE
Friday, September 15th at 9:00pm in Seegers Event Space
Get dressed up for a masquerade ball!

GRIT N' WIT
Friday, Setpember 15 at 2:00pm at LSC Lawn
Sign up at www.gritnwit.com.

BONFIRE
Friday, September 15 at 8:00pm at Trexler Library Lawn
S'mores, music, and fun!

HOMECOMING FAIR
SPONSORED BY ALUMNI AFFAIRS
Saturday, September 16 from Noon to 3:00pm at College Green
Come out and enjoy fun activities, games, strolling artists, performers, and even a petting zoo!

FIREWORKS
SPONSORED BY ALUMNI AFFAIRS
Saturday, September 16 at 9:00pm at Trexler Library Lawn
Cap off Homecoming week with a spectacular fireworks show!

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The Muhlenberg Weekly

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 VOLUME CXL, ISSUE 2

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'Berg drops Bear Security after confrontation

After reported racist incident, College ends 32-year relationship with security company

By Gregory Kantor
Editor-in-Chief

On Saturday afternoon, an incident between a Muhlenberg student and an employee of Bear Security escalated into a shouting match.

In an email sent to the student body on Sunday, Dean of Students Allison Gulati announced that Muhlenberg will no longer employ Bear Security, a private security company that the College has used to supplement Campus Safety for the past 32 years. The reason cited for severing the relationship was an "incident involving racial bias."

Muhlenberg hired Bear Security during Alumni Weekend to assist with security around campus and at a variety of alumni events. The incident in question occurred around 4:30 p.m. in the Dining Hall on Saturday, when Bear Security employees were eating dinner, according to Gulati.

According to multiple first-hand accounts, a student approached a Bear Security employee and accused him of making racist comments last November and then the security officer began laughing at the student. The shouting continued before Campus Safety officers arrived to separate the individuals and take statements.

Following the November incident, Muhlenberg notified Bear Security of "clear expectations" related to employee conduct at future events, said Gulati. "Our expectations were not met in a number of ways on Saturday, including with regard to this incident in the dining hall," Gulati added.

The student who was in-

SEE **Bear Security** | PAGE 5

Hanging out in the Tree House

Emma Pertez on her experience at the eco-friendly MILE

Muhlenberg College Community Garden

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Public Relations

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

In Fall 2012, a group of students began a Group Interest House called the Tree House. According to the Tree House blog "the primary goal of our group, the Tree House, is to educate the Muhlenberg and Allentown community in how to be environmentally responsible."

Located at 2216 Chew Street, the Tree House is denoted with a sign and is half of one of the doubles bookending the Community Garden. Some of the unique sustainability features of the Tree House include a solar hot water heater and a compost pile.

Emma Pertez '18, is one of

SEE **Tree House** | PAGE 5

After accident, students weigh in on alcohol

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

McCrae Williams, a 19-year-old freshman lacrosse player at nearby Lafayette College, will never be remembered for the amount of saves he made in goal or the degree he earned. The Weston, Mass. native will instead be known in the community as the kid who lost his life just three weeks into his college career. Williams died of a head injury at Lehigh Valley Hospital on Sept. 11 after being found unconscious outside his dorm by campus police responding to a medical call for a student who had been drinking. Officially, he died from blunt force trauma, but the untold truth that everyone is afraid to face is that the deadly injury was directly correlated to his excessive alcohol consumption.

Some argue that the legal prohibition for half of college age students could be part of the problem

Williams' death occurred on the same weekend that 20 Lehigh University students were arrested for underage drinking and five others were hospitalized for high blood-alcohol contents; the weekend before almost 60 Lehigh students were arrested after complaints of loud off-campus parties.

Incidents involving alcohol like these are, unfortunately, not uncommon. Four Lehigh students almost died in a span of two months last spring in alcohol poisoning related accidents. Maxwell Gruver, an 18-year-old freshman at Louisiana State University, died on Sept. 14 after consuming excessive amounts of alcohol while pledging the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Most notably, Timothy Piazza, a 19-year-old sophomore at Penn State University, died this past February after sustaining injuries cause by the amount of alcohol he

SEE **Alcohol** | PAGE 5

Editorial

When campus gets too cozy

Door holding: something that all tour guides have mentioned as the quintessential description of Muhlenberg's campus – more than Victor's Lament or our cardinal red doors.

But the simple act of holding a door is just a part of our campus culture that we hold in such high esteem. We do things here that would seem foreign just about anywhere else, like leaving expensive electronics and student IDs as collateral on dining hall tables. Not too long ago, we were unofficially known as the Caring College, and in the years since, although the slogan has become just a distant memory, the aforementioned actions have come to exemplify the pride we have for our open, friendly and generally safe campus.

And yet, two weeks ago, were you even aware that criminal trespassing charges were brought up against an individual who, according to the Allentown Police Department, illegally entered Prosser Hall?

Even when something disruptive happens on campus, our campus climate returns to equilibrium within a day or two. An email notification from college administration – or in this case, the Office of Residential Services – arrives in our inbox. Vague details of what happened, a few tips on safety and a phone number to call give students more concerns than reassurances: then what? We gossip about it with our friends, share interpretations from apparent witnesses or friends of friends and the whole thing dissolves by the next day.

Or, in the case of reported racist actions against a student, the appropriate response is not to wait until the investigation of the incident is no longer ongoing; rather, all students should be provided with the opportunity to discuss the incident while it still remains at the forefront of our collective consciousness.

This strategy is hardly foreign to Muhlenberg. In November 2015, President Williams held a "Speak Out, Listen In" town hall-style meeting in response to anonymous racist comments made on Yik Yak, a now-defunct social media platform. As we reported two years ago, although pessimism and powerlessness dominated the meeting and subsequent conversations, it nevertheless represents the last significant, public discussion of race on our campus.

A small hole in our "Muhlenbubble" is not nearly enough to pop the question – what does Muhlenberg do to increase our awareness of social and racial implications in regards to our safety? An incident that should cause a true discussion on safety in our campus gets buried in the comfort we all eventually retract to.

We are privileged enough to feel comfortable, safe and secure on our campus, but there is a verifiable decline in those feelings as we get further from Haas and closer to the Hamilton District. Yes, it's essential that students feel comfortable enough at Muhlenberg to call it their second home; however, some students undeniably revert to a feeling of discomfort and caution outside of the precious "Muhlenbubble" – do all students even feel truly safeguarded on campus to begin with?

Implications of racial bias are ever-present for students of color, regardless of whether they take a stroll downtown or to the dining hall for a bite to eat. The barriers of our racial and social division are not going to dissolve through our email inboxes – we, as a collective unit of students and members of the Allentown community, cannot progress without a more transparent platform of discussion stemming from our Muhlenberg administration.

Editorial Board

Go short, go long, but go abroad

By Emily Davidson
Op/Ed Editor

There are a myriad of reasons explaining why I am not going to be included in the half of my graduating class who studied abroad. As the Office of Global Education reports, 52.4 percent of Muhlenberg students in the class of 2016 studied abroad upon graduation. I can attribute my lack of study abroad experiences in order of increasing significance to the following: missing a cross country or track season, pre-medical requirements, summers of independent research studying ticks and most importantly, poor planning and ample procrastination.

To all underclassmen: pursue these study abroad opportunities passionately and wholeheartedly, whether it be a semester abroad or a MILA course

By the summer preceding my sophomore year, the first inklings of study abroad consideration flooded my mind. However, I never followed up with these notions or took initiative to explore what possible study abroad options would fit my major, minor and medical school prerequisites.

To all underclassmen reading this, please pursue these study abroad opportunities passionately and wholeheartedly, whether it be a semester abroad or a MILA course. Though I did not experience an entire semester abroad, I was fortunate enough to partake in the summer 2016 Costa Rica MILA instructed by Dr. Rich Niesenbaum and Dr. Jack Gambino. Muhlenberg Integrated Learning Abroad, or MILAs, involve abroad experiences of less than two weeks following a semester of coursework and preparation for the trip.

I never could have imagined attaining the self-growth, enjoyment, learning and service opportunities I experienced during my packed 13 days in Costa Rica this past summer. The focus of both the course and trip centered around community sustainability in the small, rural town of Las Juntas. From planting trees to aid in carbon sequestration, sorting colored glass at a women's co-op recycling plant and exploring the cloud forest of Monte Verde, each day was packed with new life experiences.

I was personally involved in a public health group project assessing the views of the public and private healthcare offerings to the citizens of Las Juntas. After studying the health care system based in social security from afar throughout the semester, utilizing government websites and peer-reviewed scholarly articles, I had the chance to evaluate the system directly, in person, in the flesh.

My group and I interviewed multiple doctors, a nurse and a nutritionist in addition to directly conversing and surveying the citizens of Las Juntas. I had the opportunity to learn from a society that viewed health care as a fundamental human right, even including this basic right in their constitution. As an aspiring physician, this global perspective on healthcare was priceless. I had the chance to depart from my own ethnocentric lens and learn about what medical care was beyond the boundaries of what I have always known from my previous volunteering and shadowing experiences.

That time of the semester is upon us where studying abroad meetings have commenced. Whether it be a MILA or an entire semester, I encourage freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors (who are still eligible to embark on MILAS and fall semesters in Washington, D.C.) to explore these opportunities. Whether you go short or go long, I push you to go abroad.

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Quality is everything for actor-comedian Tim Baltz

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Writer

Last semester I was given the opportunity to interview the actor-comedian Tim Baltz. You may recognize him from such shows as "Drunk History," "Veep" and "Parks and Recreation." Even if you aren't familiar with him or his work, he is definitely someone worth knowing. Tim Baltz is one of the stars of the show "Bajillion Dollar Propertie$" and the co-creator/star of the show "Shrink," both of which were previously streaming on Seeso.

Seeso was a comedy streaming platform owned by NBC with a lot of original programing and archived televsion shows. Many of the shows have found new homes in places like VRV.com.

Sadly, this isn't true for Tim Baltz's improv-based shows "Bajillion Dollar Propertie$," a fake reality show about an LA real estate agency, and "Shrink," a show about a man just out of medical school with no residency and half a million in debt who decides to start giving free therapy sessions.

When I sat down with Tim we talked a lot about his show "Shrink," which he co-created with Ted Tremper and which has technically been in development since before 2012. He told me about its journey from a web series to where it is today. They originally filmed ten "sessions" with different improvisers only with the intention of releasing it as a web series until they realized that, with some tweaking, it could be made into a pilot; which is exactly what they did. The pilot was then bought in 2014 but nothing was done with it, and from then until 2017 they had been trying to buy it back. When they finally did, they sold it to Seeso and the first season was made.

We then started talking about his roots in comedy and how doing improv in Chicago's Second City shaped him as a comedian; he told me that "quality is the most important thing" for him and he attributed that, in part, to his start in Chicago. Chicago, was "cut off from the coasts" and most comedians from there wouldn't get big unless they got on SNL, which only a few did. Because of this, many comedians like Tim Baltz didn't worry about catering their comedy only to those who could advance their career and were instead able to focus on the quality of their comedy, which has stuck with Tim to this day. In talking about improv, Tim told me that he cares about "what helps a scene, and if that's me being quiet then I'll do that," showing that his concern is with the scene and not himself. This focus on quality of comedy also has made him appreciate reality and emotion in conjunction with comedy and how they can work together. This definitely can be found in "Shrink" because, although it is very funny, it also has a lot of heart to it. On editing the show, he told me "it was a lot of fun to look at the show on a granular level" and "cutting something really funny for something with more emotion because the emotion will make a joke later in the episode even funnier."

This focus on quality of comedy also has made him appreciate reality and emotion in conjunction with comedy and how they can work together.

I also asked Tim about his specific comedy and how he likes to think of it. He told me that he doesn't think about it because if he "starts to think about it [he's] afraid it'll get [him] in [his] head." Another reason Baltz is not interested in defining his comedy is that he wants to be a comedic jack of trades. He was taught to mirror Bruce Lee's training: Bruce Lee would study all forms of martial arts so he could avoid being a master of any one defined style, but he could be the master of his own style. Tim Baltz likes to try on all kinds of different comedic hats so as to master his own style of humor. This method worked well for Bruce Lee and it seems to be working well for Tim Baltz. Something Tim does enjoy doing is thinking about what interests him about comedy and why. For instance, he realized at some point in his career that he finds salesmen funny and that many of his characters were salesmen. He was able to attribute that to his father, who was an actor, eventually owned a small picture framing business and, in Tim's words, was a "terrible salesman." Tim was then able to apply that memory to his comedy.

We finished the interview by talking about any advice he could give to young people, performers or otherwise. He stressed the importance of being a nice person, which in most industries can make a difference. Always working to improve yourself, much like Bruce Lee, is important. When it comes to creating, he said "do something that makes you laugh and, even if no one finds it funny, at least you're having fun." You can, and should, check out episodes of "Shrink" and "Bajillion Dollar Propertie$" on YouTube. If you like what you see, which I'm sure you will, please tweet about it with the hashtags #SaveShrink and #Buyjillion to show networks that you want more of these shows. Once you become familiar with Tim Baltz and his work, hit me up on Facebook so we can talk about this lovely man who I thank so much for allowing me to sit down and speak with him.

Mindfulness: in the moment

By Brooke Greenberg
Op/Ed Writer

On average, we take approximately 16 breaths per minute, and 960 breaths an hour, adding up to 23,040 breaths a day. Our lungs inhale fresh new oxygen and release carbon dioxide. Breathing is one of the basic bodily functions that we have been doing from the moment we were born to the moment we die.

It signifies life when we are born and take that first breath in the delivery room and death when we take our final breath. It is the breeding ground for life. It is capable of more than we think. We hold the power of something as precious as our breath, which is used to control so much of our lives.

Mindfulness is the practice of being in the moment. It is observing our feelings in a stable and content state of mind without judgement or criticism. It is the state of being or merely existing. Little do people know, that state of being not only has the ability to increase academic performance, self-awareness, self-esteem and improved ability to relate to others, but also to reduce symptoms of mental illness.

Mindfulness has been proven to have a positive influence in the classroom. Universities across the country have already implemented mindfulness programs into their student life. Carnegie Mellon University currently has a mindfulness room, in which students can come and exercise and reset their brains. Indiana University also employs a mindfulness program where they have yoga, meditation, aromatherapy and massage, according to NBC News.

The practice of mindfulness works in a unique way and is often compared to exercise of the brain. Mindfulness builds and strengthens neural connections in the brain that are linked to concentration and awareness. Those skills are vital for maintaining success in the classroom.

College students are no stranger to mental health issues. Psychology Today reported that anxiety is the top mental health concern for college students, with a whopping 41.6 percent of students reporting anxiety followed by depression. Mindfulness training can reduce symptoms of anxiety by teaching your brain how to respond to any emotion that may come up, as well as being better able to process them without getting as worked up.

While there are simple ways of practicing mindfulness, one training exercise involves holding a raisin in your mouth to observe all the textures and sensations that come along with it. Focusing on the raisin allows your brain to relax and be totally present in the moment. Yoga has also been proven to help with cognitive function and learning.

Focusing on the here and now is a simple, seemingly mindless task that has proven time and time again to have significant success not only in the classroom, but also in all areas of a person's life. Taking five or ten minutes a day to sit and focus on the present moment has the ability to make an impact that lasts a lifetime. The tools are all accessible. They are all right here. They are all open now. They are in our back pocket just waiting to be used.

Muhlenberg College
FARMERS MARKET
connect with your community & your food
FRESH
LOCAL
NATURAL
salsa
lemonade
maple candy
herbs
honey
FRIDAY
SEPT. 22
10:30AM - 3PM
kombucha
COLLEGE GREEN
vegetables
sponsored & presented by: EnAct & Muhlenberg Dining

Campus Safety Notes

Friday, September 15
Property Damage – 12:01 a.m.
In Martin Luther Hall there was a report of a broken window. The window was repaired by Plant Operations and there are no suspects at this time.

Medical Transport – 2:03 p.m.
There was a report to transport a student to the hospital and the transport was completed by a Campus Safety Officer.

Hit and Run – 5:15 p.m.
On Front Drive there was a report of a hit and run to a vehicle resulting in minor damage. An investigation will continue.

Injured Student – 7:00 p.m.
In the Life Sports Center there was a report of an injured student. Allentown EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Injured Student – 8:30 p.m.
At an off campus location there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Fire Alarm Sounding – 8:50 p.m.
At 2245 Liberty Street there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to smoke from cooking. The system was silenced and reset without further incident.

Sick Student – 11:12 p.m.
In Brown Hall there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS and Allentown EMS responded and transported to the student to the hospital.

Saturday, September 16
Alcohol Violation – 2:17 a.m.
In Village 1 there was a report of underage alcohol possession/consumption. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Found Property – 9:05 a.m.
On the Front Drive there was a report of a found wallet which was later claimed by the owner.

Injured Student – 1:53 p.m.
In Brown Hall there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student refused further treatment or transport.

Disorderly Conduct – 4:15
In Seegers Union there was a report of disorderly conduct and an investigation will continue.

Fire Alarm Sounding – 4:53 p.m.
In Robertson Hall there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset without further incident.

Injured Student –5:40 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Sick Student – 6:02 p.m.
In Prosser Hall there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Injured Student – 7:55 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Pedestrian Accident – 8:26 p.m.
On Albright and Chew Streets there was a report of a pedestrian accident. Allentown Police Department and Allentown EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Sick Visitor – 9:52 p.m.
In Seegers Union there was as report of a sick visitor. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the individual was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Fire Alarm Sounding – 9:59 p.m.
In South Hall there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to burnt food. The system was silenced and reset without further incident.

Medical Transport – 10:13 p.m.
In Seegers Union there was a report to transport an individual to the hospital and the transport was completed by a Campus Safety Officer.

Noise Complaint -–11:30 p.m.
At an off campus location there was a report of a noise complaint.

Alcohol Violation – 11:53 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall there was a report of underage possession/consumption and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Sunday, September 17
Alcohol Violation – 12:00 a.m.
In Prosser Hall there was a report of underage possession/consumption and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Alcohol Violation – 12:27 a.m.
In Martin Luther Hall there was a report of underage possession/consumption. Muhlenberg College EMS and Allentown EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Alcohol Violation – 12:52 a.m.
In Walz Hall there was a report of underage possession/consumption. Muhlenberg College EMS, Allentown EMS and Allentown Police Department responded. Allentown EMS transported the student to the hospital.

Sick Student – 1:01 a.m.
In East Hall there was a report of an intoxicated student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Fire Alarm Sounding – 2:51 a.m.
In Robertson Hall there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset without further incident.

Point of Information – 5:15 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall there was a report to retrieve an item left in a room from a previous call.

Sick Student – 9:56 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

College ranking not rising as predicted relative to peers

College ranks as #71 on the US News and World Report's National Liberal Arts Colleges list

By Ali Watson
News Writer

The much anticipated US News and World Report college rankings report for 2018 have recently come out, and Muhlenberg isn't doing too well.

Muhlenberg currently ranks #71 after previously ranking #81 in 2012 and #64 in 2015. This dip in ranking is not only disappointing to many on campus, but a bit surprising as well.

"I'm shocked," reacted Mel Carmilani '20. "I honestly thought we would be ranked higher."

The ranking is based on data collected from high school counselors, polls from college presidents and provosts at peer institutions, as well as some raw numbers like admissions acceptance rates, freshman year retention rates and graduation rates.

Mathematics professor Eugene Fiorini cautions that the creators and executors of the ranking system have limited mathematical and scientific background. Specifically, "there is nothing statistical or scientific in their approach."

So why even bother talking about a seemingly flawed way of qualifying a school's worth?

Deserved or not the ranking comes with prestige. And as many students can attest when searching for colleges, ranking tools are a resource for choosing a school.

The US News and World Report rankings are also used by prospective employers, who may be unfamiliar with some smaller colleges and use it as a way to gauge the rigour and overall prestige of an applicant.

Lastly, and most importantly, colleges and universities across the U.S. also advertise their rankings as a way to sell themselves.

Ranking systems are notorious for allowing preconceived notions and existing reputations of educational institutions dictate, or at the very least influence, the outcomes of their rankings.

In other words, the rankings exist to endorse an already existing, long standing reputation; ensuring a self fulfilling prophecy. Which is why we find validity in them, because they confirm our own preconceived opinions. "Prestige can be a weighted term," said Bill Keller, Executive Director of Communications. "It's often as much about perception as reality."

It's hard to not take this ranking personally, but it's also important to understand all of the factors that go into theoretically make this 'objective' a qualitative value. Furthermore, why is it even worth taking seriously. As such, what should we do about it?

"As a member of the Alumni board," said Kait Ely '19, "something highly discussed in our meetings is increasing alumni engagement once students leave campus. I think something that can be worked on between the college and graduates is maintaining that special bond which increases job opportunities and necessary donations to the school."

It's an idea certainly worth considering since the alumni giving rate theoretically makes up 5 percent of US News and World Report's criteria.

Due to the ambiguous approach to the rankings, it is hard to know exactly why Muhlenberg scored 62/100. That said President Williams has assured the Muhlenberg campus that his office is looking into potential causes of this lower ranking.

"Many institutions ranked above us — and some tied with us — have larger endowment values per student than Muhlenberg, which means we have to be more strategic than some in making our resources effective," said President Williams.

"This is one reason why it is so important for us to tell our story and have Muhlenberg become more widely known," said President Williams. An idea that Bill Keller is in agreement with.

"We're doing a lot on this front from [the communications] office, including several recent and ongoing hires to tell the Muhlenberg story more broadly and powerfully. We're in the first year of a new communication strategy as well, which we're excited to say is helping refine the process of how we share the Muhlenberg experience more effectively," Keller said.

Ranking systems can exist as a useful tool in direct quantitative ways. But ultimately, it is incredibly challenging to quantify the 'value' of a particular school in comparison to the other in a statistical/mathematical setting.

FROM **BEAR SECURITY**
PAGE 1

volved states that the presence of various law enforcement agencies on campus has "always brought me mild discomfort" and that "this feeling of unsafety has been firmly implanted in my mind" following the incident on Saturday. Additionally, this is the second time the student claims to have "personally been in a bias incident with Bear Security."

Gulati declined to comment on the specifics of the incident, citing an ongoing Campus Safety investigation.

Brian McMenamin, the president and chief executive officer of Bear Security, expressed disappointment at the termination of his long-standing relationship with the College. McMenamin also stated that the College has not provided an explanation of the termination, although he assumes it was the dining hall incident.

"A student, who has in the past made vile and false accusations of racism against me, threatened me with physical violence and slandered both myself and my company's reputation," McMenamin told The Weekly. "Instead of the Dean addressing the student behavior, my company has been dismissed after 32 years of service."

At press time, The Weekly has been unable to confirm whether any threats of physical violence were made against McMenamin.

The Weekly is able to trace the College's use of Bear Security at events involving alcohol to at least September 2000, when fraternities wishing to host 'wet' parties were required to hire two security guards. The current alcohol policy, which was significantly revised last fall to allow student organizations to host events that serve alcohol, notes that the College "may require" the hiring of additional security at such events, but does not specifically name Bear Security.

The Presidential Task Force on Alcohol Abuse recommended in April 2005 increasing the use of Bear Security at 'bring your own beverage' events, stating that the "results have been satisfactory and have also avoided the possibility of confrontational situations between Campus Safety and students."

In 2002, The Weekly reported that a Bear Security officer had "pushed through the crowd to physically detain" a visiting student in a "neck hold." Saturday's altercation is the third reported incident, in addition to a student complaint from November 2016, which led to the College issuing "clear expectations" to Bear Security, according to Gulati.

Gulati's email to students following the incident stated that there will be an opportunity in the future to discuss concerns related to the events of last weekend. Students have also been encouraged to schedule a meeting with Gulati or contact members of the Bias Resource Education Team, if necessary.

Ultimately, Muhlenberg will hire a new supplemental security service, said Gulati.

"The College is committed to values of community, equity and inclusion and we want to engage with contractors and service providers that support those as well," said Gulati. "We will be seeking those qualities in any future security providers the college uses."

FROM **TREE HOUSE**
PAGE 1

four current resident of the Tree House. She expressed her view of what the Tree House stands for, sustainable living.

"Sustainable living in my mind is simple living, going back to the basics and being more conscious and aware of what we're consuming, what we want," Pertez said.

Quoting Disney's the Jungle Book Pertez commented that overall sustainability is simply using "the bare necessities."

Pertez explained that she focuses more on sustainability -- which she described as a "lifestyle" -- and less on simply being "healthy" which she thought of as an achievement. "This whole fad with being healthy, we see it outside of ourself but really it starts from the inside."

This change in mentality came about after spending her summer in Hawaii with World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms. While there, she explained she gained an appreciation for local grown food and eating what is in season in the area, citing both as ways she helps to maintain a sustainable lifestyle.

"My groceries come from the garden or the farmer's market," Pertez said. She encourages students to take advantage of the Allentown Farmer's Market as it helps local farms and businesses and provides fresh locally grown produce at reasonable prices.

As for the garden, Pertez is referring to the Muhlenberg Community Garden which she and her housemates, along with residents of the Garden House and Jungle House, care for regularly. In addition to a large, native herb garden in the Tree House's backyard. Everything grown in the Community Garden is edible, including the marigolds, and harvested for use by the students as well as an alumnus who takes the produce to help feed Allentown residents.

Tips that Pertez gives for students who wish to be more environmentally friendly and sustainable in their daily lives include giving the people around you the utmost respect and kindness. As well as taking time to get back in touch with nature. The Tree House has a blog that offers other tips and accounts of the residents who have lived there in the past.

Students who are interested in living in the Tree House in the future are suggested to contact Kaylna Proyck, Muhlenberg's Sustainability Coordinator, who is the Tree House advisor. Additionally, the Office of Residential Services requires students who would like to live in any of these Group Interest Houses to fill out special paperwork.

The Muhlenberg Community Garden and the Tree House's herb garden both grow fresh produce that is eaten by the residents. Plants include tomatoes, arugula, and many more. Residents are continuing to expand the garden's selection.

BOTH PHOTOS: MELISSA REPH/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

FROM **ALCOHOL**
PAGE 1

consumed during hazing for Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Statistically, more than 1,800 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die from alcohol-related injuries, including motor-vehicle crashes, each year.

Incidents like these always bring about questions regarding college students and alcohol consumption. While many point the finger at fraternities, the schools themselves or careless students, some argue that the legal prohibition of alcohol for half of college-aged students could be part of the problem. Countries where the legal drinking age is between the ages of 16 and 18 have significantly less issues with binge drinking and alcohol-related accidents than the United States, the country with the second-highest legal drinking age in the world. So, could changing the drinking age really curb this issue?

Most Muhlenberg students would say "yes."

"It's a very touchy subject because it can go either way. If you lower it, you have students that don't feel the need to rebel but at the same time you're giving them access," said Aine Filler '19. "Ultimately, lowering it would be better because they're in college, you know what they're going to do anyway, I think if you're educated and have earlier access to it, there'd be less problems."

Catherine Barrow '18 agrees with that sentiment. For her, a legal drinking age of 21 doesn't make sense. At 18 years old, students are able to be tried as adults, are expected to choose a profession, can buy lottery tickets and tobacco and are eligible to sign up for the draft and join the armed forces. She believes that underage drinking issues are so prevalent because there is such a wait to drink legally, even in the beginning years of college when alcohol is readily accessible.

"People would be less worried about trying to hide being intoxicated and would be more likely to seek help," said Jacob Fishman, a student visiting from Binghamton University.

Other students agreed with what Fishman had to say, arguing that lowering the legal drinking age would lessen the intensity of underage drinking, and thus, incidents where excessive alcohol consumption is the root cause of injury and death. Zulma Yucra, a student from the Wescoe School of Continuing Education, believes that the United States could learn something from countries like Argentina or Germany.

"It's always going to be their choice and if there's something prohibited they're more tempted to do it," said Yucra. "I'd rather have my son try it at 18, supervised with me, than him over due it the first time."

Opinions about editing the current drinking age won't change anything but conversations will and, unfortunately, recurring incidents like McCrae Williams' are the catalyst.

Disorientation

Changes to the first year experience

By Chloe Gravereaux
Asst. Managing Editor

‘Berg welcomed a new generation of Mules to campus this past fall with an updated orientation schedule, packed full of traditions old and new -- from a campus-wide BBQ, opening convocation and the Sedhi Diversity project to the newly introduced trip to downtown Allentown and the addition of an extra day to the program.

Although this first head-spinning weekend of activities is a common experience among everyone on campus, few seem to know all the planning that goes into making the freshies at home in the Muhlenbubble.

“The thing a lot of people don’t know about orientation is it goes far beyond the freshman class. Those four days require every part of Muhlenberg’s community to help or guide in some way,” said Samantha Laskin ‘18, a member of the new Orientation Review Committee.

The Orientation Review Committee, which is made up of several advisors, faculty and students took months of planning and scheduling to put the current changes to work. They were aided by the Student Orientation Advising and Planning Committee (SOAP), which is made up of 6-8 students who serve as middlemen between Orientation Groups, or groups of 10-12 freshmen plus their upperclassman Orientation Leader (OL), and the heads of the program: Jan Schumacher, Associate Dean of Students/Director of Student Engagement, Steve Dutton, Associate Director of Student Engagement for Clubs & Organizations & Fraternity & Sorority Affairs and an organizer of Orientation and Ellen Lentine, Associate Director of Student Engagement for Student Activities & Events. This year, the program had 48 OLs, resulting in smaller than average groups of freshmen. The additional day in the scheduling helped spread out some of the previous years’ activities as well.

“There’s a fine line between overpacking a schedule and leaving too many holes. We try and keep the days full so students aren’t sitting and thinking about how much they miss home, but not too packed that they have no room to breathe,” said Laskin.

According to Dutton, the whirlwind schedule of orientation is designed to help new students adjust to college life.

“There is some intentionality behind having such a detailed schedule, and that’s really to prepare students for what they should expect when classes begin,” said Dutton. “Once students start going to class, start getting involved in organizations, various meetings--maybe they have a work/study or part-time job--schedules get busy. So we want the orientation schedule to reflect that.”

Dutton did add, however, that the lack of free time was something that caused them to add an extra day to orientation.

“One of the many reasons to expand orientation from three days to four was to allow for more flexibility in the schedule, to allow more free time for students. The schedule is actually more open this year than it has been in the past. One of the reasons being that that’s what students have been asking for. It was so jam packed with activities and things they had to be at that they were looking for more opportunities to decompress, decide what they want to do on their own, buy their books, hang out, have some informal time with friends. So there is more time built in.”

“The ultimate goal of O-groups is to have an understanding that there are people who are probably just as scared as you might be.”

In addition to adjusting to the college culture, orientation is meant to help students adjust both academically and socially to college life.

“Those are the two areas that we know ultimately help retain our students. If you’re successful academically -- you’re doing well in your classes, you’re on your way to a good internship -- if we can help you meet your career goals starting at orientation, students are more likely to stay here and have a successful college career,” said Dutton. “Same thing with that social transition. If we can find a community for you to connect with, that’s going to keep you here.”

Photo Courtesy Of Muhlenberg College Public Relations

On move-in day 2016, an upperclassman hands an incoming freshman a Muhlenberg drawstring bag as part of her welcome package.

Hallie Richie ‘18, made this social transition rather easily.

“I met some of my best friends in my orientation group and they remain my close friends to date,” said Richie. “It is an opportunity to break away from the tie to your freshman roommate and make friends on your own, while totally making a fool of yourself doing endless icebreakers!”

Evan Plaza ‘19, saw social opportunities quite differently.

“I think the ultimate goal of O-groups is to have an understanding that there are people who are probably just as scared as you might be about college and who might even have the same interests as you,” said Plaza. “I think it’s almost like a safety net of people you meet before you get to meet everyone who goes here.”

Monique Beaupre ‘20, said the most important aspect of both her freshman orientation and her role as leader to O-group 26 was the pairing of upperclassmen with freshmen.

“As a freshman, I found most helpful the real insight that my Orientation Leader gave me. He gave me real and practical advice as to how to navigate my freshman year. Those genuine student-to-student conversations were really important,” said Beaupre. “My freshmen told me that the opportunities that I gave them to ask me those same types of questions were really important. They also told me that the very practical things like how to open their mailboxes, and to have their IDs ready when picking up a package also helped.”

The newest addition to orientation program, the trip to downtown Allentown, received mixed results.

“Going downtown can be a really important aspect of orientation,” said Beaupre, “but it can be tweaked and worked on to make it the best experience possible for the freshmen.”

Michael Havkins ‘18, leader of O-Group 9, said the exploration of Allentown was one of the best parts of the weekend.

“The great thing about working on orientation is even though so much is changing the root of what orientation is never changes”

“Aside from the great comedy show we all attended, we had lots of fun walking around the city as I led them on a makeshift tour that comprised random fun facts, recommendations of great restaurants and bonding time in a park near by where we all sat on the grass and talked about how our weekends have been going thus far,” said Havkins.

Quentin Bernhard ‘20, also a member of SOAP, believes the program is headed in the right direction.

“The program does help students adjust to college, and it is adjusted and improved every year, based on feedback from first-year students,” said Bernhard. “As a new student, it is easy to feel unprepared going into and coming out of orientation, but the weekend certainly opens doors and answers questions for students so that they feel more prepared for the college years they are about to embark upon.”

All these new changes are what Laskin loves so much about orientation.

“The great thing about working on orientation is even though so much is changing, the root of what orientation is never changes: to welcome and acclimate the freshman class,” said Laskin.

SOAP member Kenny Siry ‘18 said the group appreciates any sort of feedback they can get.

“Since this was our first year with the new four-day structure we expected a large amount of feedback. We were not disappointed,” said Siry. “The OLs are phenomenal at relaying information about their students to SOAP, and we’ve already taken note of a few things that can be improved going forward. That being said, we are always looking for feedback and if anyone has any concerns they’d like to bring up we’d be happy to listen!”

Anyone interested in providing feedback or becoming an O-Group leader can contact Steve Dutton, or anyone in the Student Life Suite.

Arts & Culture

"I must study politics and war that my songs may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy." - John Adams

Altercations with Anxiety:

staging grief, loss, and acceptance

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

The cast of the New Visions play "How I Wonder" rehearsing a tense moment in the upcoming performance.

A step, a leap, a chance, or simply a choice — all of these factors vary and warp when considering 'the future.' We as college students, often ask ourselves about where our futures may lead us, constantly questioning our actions and even our own identities; we essentially embody the unknown.

Nothing epitomizes this more than the New Visions play "How I Wonder." Written by Muhlenberg alumni Kate O'Donoghue '17 and Ashley Malafronte '17, the piece takes a dive into the constant state of anxiety and apprehensiveness that is 'the future.' To continue this theme of anxiety, actor Sam Thompson '19 discusses the innate power that the script of "How I Wonder" has, specifically over the actors themselves.

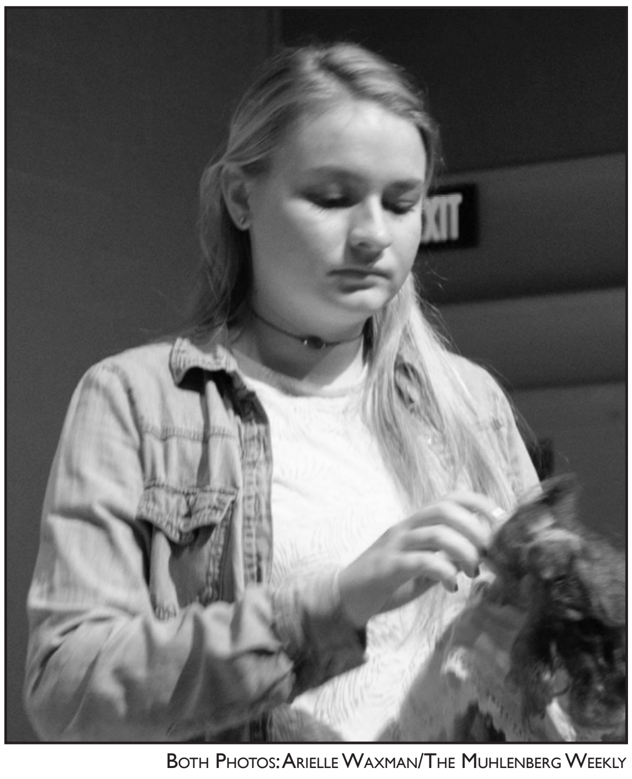
"...Dealing with familial loss...family dynamics, your role in your own life, as well as...how to deal with your family as you grow older [are main themes in this show]. ...We, as a cast, but also people coming to see the show, will [hopefully] see a new idea [about loss] that...they haven't thought of."

He continues:

"The student writers did such an excellent job with the writing that our work as actors has been much easier. [I hope] that we can take their story and turn it into... something close to the hours they put into it."

I asked Sam to further elaborate on this idea of the writing and its affect on the actors:

"My favorite part has just been each day...building upon our warm ups, the physical side of it, and how we can trigger our bodies...that we demand for the story... If I, myself, could even put [in] a quarter of my time that Ashley and Kate have, I'd hope that I could highlight my part of the story."



Both Photos: Arielle Waxman/The Muhlenberg Weekly

It is this theme, "part of the story," that is emphasized throughout "How I Wonder," as well as extended to the audience's own potential contribution. Director Drew Maidment '18 discusses a second aspect of the play involving the part of 'loss' and hardship.

"People should definitely come because supporting student work is really important; this work was written by students, directed by students, performed by students, [and] designed by students and it's a great opportunity to see how student collaborators work on this campus and what the theater program offers for that sort of thing."

Drew continues on the theme of loss that serves as a recurring element throughout the play:

"...The play itself deals with grief...how to deal with loss, and how do we move forward in our lives, as in, what our futures are going to entail. College students can specifically connect with this idea, that the future is completely unknown — and the space that we are in right now is only that space for a limited [amount] of time. And afterwards, we don't know what's going to happen. So, we try to find different ways in coping with our grief, in coping with change, in coping with loss...'How I Wonder' is about how we do that [and] if it's possible to maintain that sense of wonder and sense of hope. Even when the horrible things happen."

Another aspect of the play that is particularly interesting is the naming of the characters. The names are "Father," "Mother," "Girl" and "Boyfriend" — roles that are not only embodied by the actors, but also up to the audience's interpretation. This is further discussed by actor Rae Wessel '19:

"It's very interesting because...it's easier to relate to this play than other plays, I think. I think it brings up many difficult topics that would be great to spark conversation, or would be great just to...have someone else express for you."

Rae further discusses the concept of the writing style mentioned by Sam earlier:

"I would definitely agree [that the writers did an excellent job], just because the play is set in realism, so I can talk in this play how I would talk in day to day life. So...the speech is easy, and it was very quick to understand it, and I think that most of the lines have so much written underneath them [that] they almost mean something different...it's very symbolic of what we're saying. And so I think that the writing really aids me and my acting because it's very easy for me to understand [my character] 'Girl' even though she is just this cookie cutter of a person...I could make her my own, but the writing aided me in that way."

Being able to witness just a snippet of this production was truly an honor, and I highly look forward to seeing it in its final stages. "How I Wonder" seems to express what many college students, as well as various other individuals, feel and ponder over. Yet, with the combination of writing, acting, and production in general, we have an living art of anxiety — anxiety of the future, of the unknown, of making a choice, and, most importantly, of making the first step.

Looking foward and looking back: Alumni Weekend

By Evan Mester
Arts & Culture Writer

As a junior, I am no stranger to the hustle and activity of Alumni Weekend. While many new students could have been slightly overwhelmed by the sea of people that flooded our modestly sized liberal arts campus, a sort of epiphany begins to set in during later semesters. Myself and many others realize how truly remarkable it is to see the history of Muhlenberg in the flesh, walking beside you on Academic Row. Certainly most think to the future at least once, imagining what it must feel like to join the ranks of Muhlenberg Alumni. Simply put, Alumni Weekend is as much of an opportunity for students of yesteryear to look back on the old days as it is a way for current students to glimpse into the future.

This merging of Muhlenberg's future and past opens up the opportunity for the semester's most unique events and programs, with the Alumni Recital being no exception. After covering several recitals performed by then-current Muhlenberg students throughout the past two years, I was no stranger to the sheer level of talent my fellow student body could display. As I sat down for this weekend's recital, somehow it didn't dawn on me that an *alumni* recital would be performed by alumni. That's a pretty odd thing not to pick up on, I guess. A quick glance at the recital's song sheet would inform me of my little gaff.

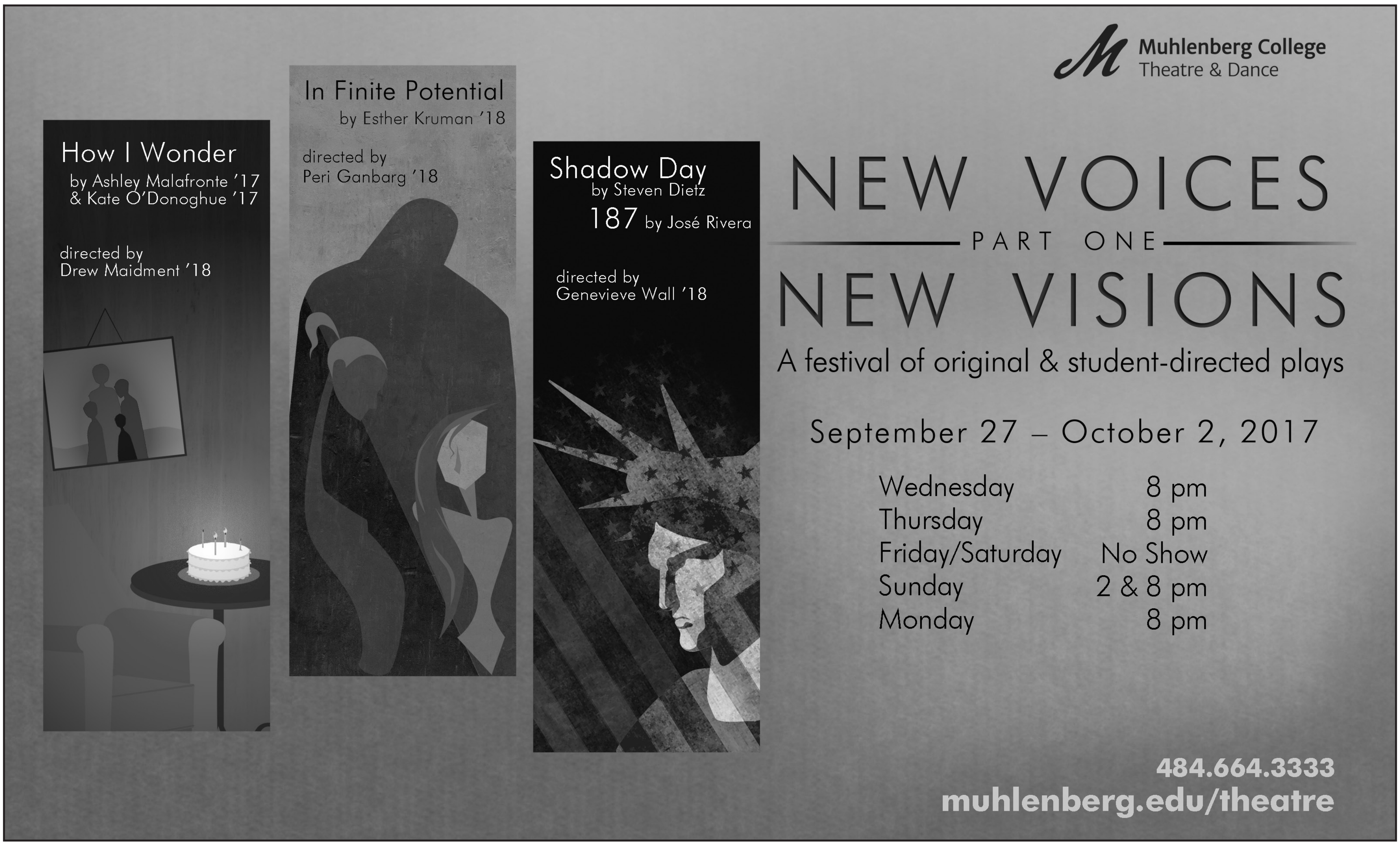
Both Photos: Cole Geissler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

As Selena Moretz Lavonier '02 and Vincent Trovato, music instructor and staff accompanist, entered the theater, the absence of introduction was replaced by the immediate start of the performance, kicking things off with Ralph Vaughan Williams's "Silent Noon." Throughout the piece, thoughts were racing around in my head. While the performance was indeed impressive, it dawned on me that there was something more going on here. Yes, Muhlenberg talent was clearly present in Moretz Lavonier's performance, but there was definitely more than meets the eye to what was onstage. I couldn't exactly put my finger on it yet, but as the recital continued with guest performer Stephen Lavonier's performance of "Rivolgete a lei sguardo," I kept a little brainstorm session in my mind so that I could later solve the mystery of whatever was making this recital so distinct.

Stephen Lavonier and Selena Moretz Lavonier take a bow after a successful performance at Alumni Weekend.

During the latter half of the recital, the pieces performed seemed to shift away from the English tongue and towards pieces in romantic languages. Despite the change in tongues, the expertise and vocal finesse of both singers remained impeccable as ever. Following the final performance by Moretz Lavonier, the recital hall, once radiating with the vocals of the performers, boomed with echoing applause and cheers from the audience. Among the attendees of the recital were a number of current students here at Muhlenberg that I knew or at least have seen around campus. The applause from them was perhaps the loudest.

It was then that I realized what was so special about this recital. As a Muhlenberg alum herself, Moretz Lavonier's performance was not only a way of saying thanks for her education here, but also as a means to exhibit how far she has come since then; now, she is no longer a student but a plain professional. This alumni effect doesn't just end with Moretz Lavonier, however, as the current students attending the recital could have very well seen themselves in her shoes some years down the line. It is for these reasons why I feel that Alumni Week is so much more than a reunion weekend. While those who have studied here long ago come to reminisce and celebrate the nostalgia of their college experiences, us current students can look at them and think into the future, knowing that one day, we will be in their shoes, showing what Muhlenberg College has taught us to those next in line.



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Popping the Muhlenbubble at the World of Food Festival

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

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ALL CAKES
6.00
2.00
1.00

Food trucks like this one lined Nineteenth and Liberty Streets last Saturday, showcasing Allentown's plethora of tasty treats.

There are few places in the world that bring together every desire a college student could ever have, and fewer places still that do so in close proximity to colleges themselves. Realistically, what setting could ever squeeze live music, adorable families, dogs of every breed and streets full of delicious food into one contained area? The whole idea is almost too good to be true – almost, that is, because the West End World of Food Festival does indeed exist.

For nearly twelve hours of non-stop eating and entertainment on Sept. 16, downtown Allentown's Nineteenth and Liberty Streets were transformed into a foodie's mecca. Upon walking just past the farmer's market, my friends and I were hit with a delectable-yet-unidentifiable scent, one that immediately invited us to hop off of the sidewalk and into what did indeed seem like a world of food. As Jenny Silber '20 recalls, the endless array of options could have easily overwhelmed even the most experienced of eaters.

"There were a lot more options than I anticipated – which was great," Silber said. "It was difficult to choose who to buy from, since I wanted to try everything."

From Caribbean noodles to crabcake sandwiches by Sherri's Crab Cakes to brightly colored trailers proudly displaying a wide range of sweets (including a Butterbeer-flavored cupcake from the Sweet Lush Cupcake Camper!), the scene at the festival's entrance served as the perfect gateway to the idyllic scene ahead. A stage was set up in the middle of the street, complete with a dance floor and a full band. As the lead singer belted out hits like The Black Keys' "Lonely Boy," a short trip down the street made me feel anything but lonely – each passer-by was willing to share a smile or laugh, and every dog was ready and willing to be pet.

Still, though, I could not help but dwell on the divide between Muhlenberg students and these unfamiliar faces. Though Muhlenberg is a part of Allentown (we are well within city limits), the outdated "Muhlenbubble" and the downtown area are portrayed as mutually exclusive realms of identity: one can either be a Muhlenberg student or…a resident of some other part of Allentown. This belief, which conflates the rich multiplicities of the city into a homogenous group of people and ignores those who live as both Muhlenberg students and full-time Allentonians, is what leads to the damaging reputation of the city – or, perhaps, just certain parts of it – as inaccessible and "sketchy." Val Weisler '20 believes that the festival provided a prime opportunity for students to cement the idea that this "othering" of Allentown is unfounded.

> **"[Events like this] get people to come out [to] support local businesses and see what our city has to offer..."**

"Events like this really bring the community together. They get people to come out [to] support local businesses and see what our city has to offer," said Weisler. "The stigma against Allentown is real on campus. Events like this are important to prove students wrong; it shows them the incredible people and places in our city."

Several of these incredible people and places were showcased as my friends and I journeyed up Nineteenth Street. One friend spun a prize wheel that only gave out pig-shaped ice packs (guess what she won?), and we toyed with the idea of purchasing some allergy-repelling Heavens Honey. The ever-incredible Udder Bar was full of people clamoring for a cool treat on this unusually warm summer evening, and the enormous cookies and cream cone that I purchased was the perfect remedy.

As my friends and I finished up the last of our sweets, we traveled back down the street and decided to peek inside the Civic Theatre, also known as the Nineteenth Street Theater. Since none of us had ever been before, an employee took us on a mini-tour of the building, pointing out the authentic 1920s-era murals and the magnificent domed ceiling. In light of the hubbub outside, only four of the plush red seats were filled – still, the group of women who were spending their girl's night at the movies invited us to enjoy it with them, an offer which we reluctantly declined as we opened the grand doors of the theater and began our slow descent back into the Muhlenbubble.

But was this really a return to the way things were? The World of Food Festival had certainly thinned the bubble's walls, reminding us that the Muhlenbubble is not the end-all-be-all of the school's relationship with the city it calls home. This idea is perfectly summed up by attendee Kayla Robinson '20.

"[Events like the World of Food Festival] allow people from different backgrounds who might not otherwise meet to come together. This is an especially good way for Muhlenberg students to get involved with the Allentown community, as students can meet people from the area and discover the food and other things Allentown has available," Robinson said. "The people we met were friendly and seemed excited to chat or say hi and that's something that students won't get to experience unless they travel off campus into Allentown. Events like the food festival give students an 'excuse' to go downtown, and something fun to do while there. Hopefully they return on their own and share the experience with other people!"

Though this does not mean that Muhlenberg students should traipse downtown with the intention to extend the school's community overtop the communities that already exist there, it does mean that collaboration is possible – and, as long as we do so responsibly, it might just create something beautiful… and delicious.

Raw Honey
HONE
TAST

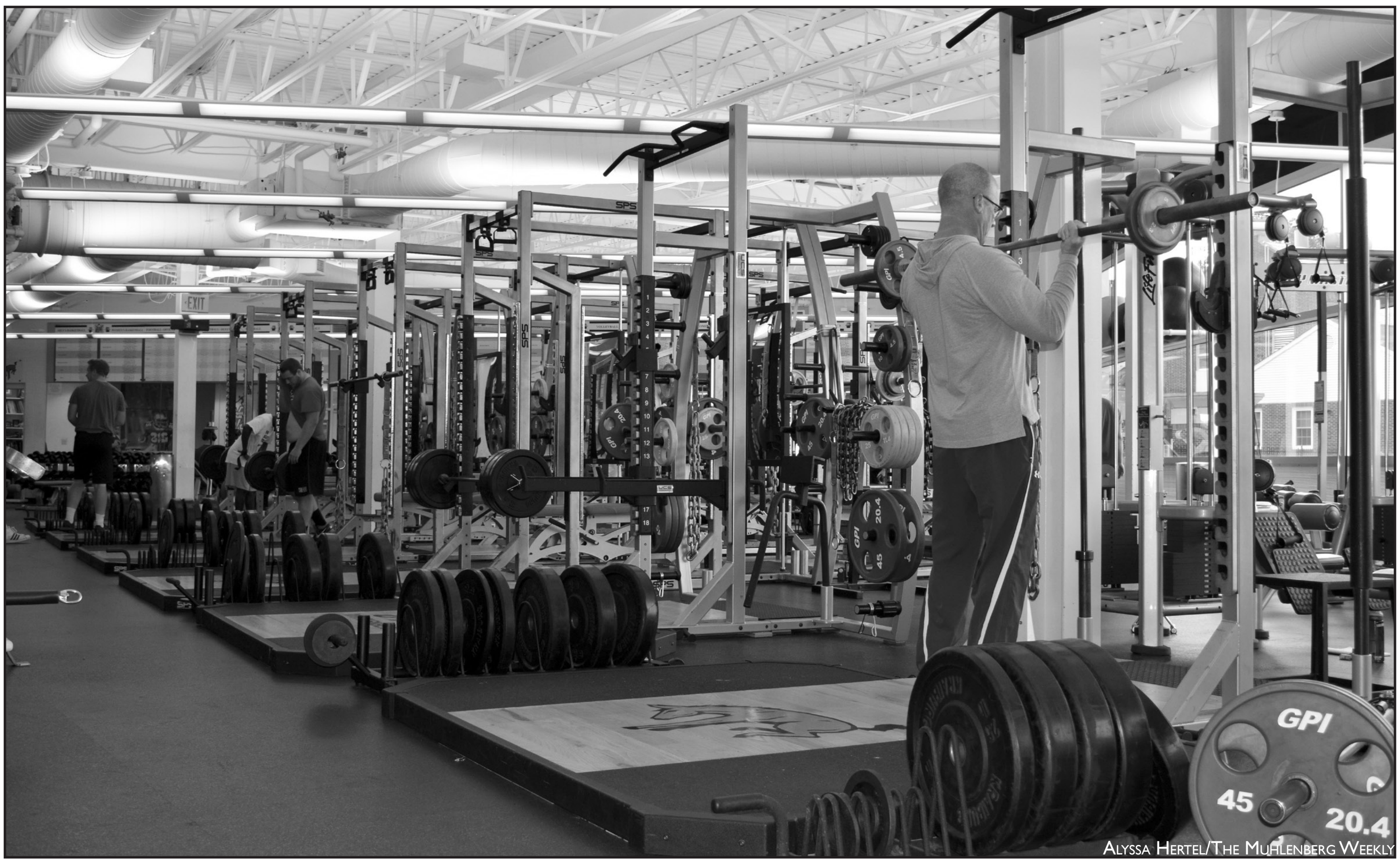
"THE ROOSTER"
Butter, Parmesan

All Photos: Arielle Waxman/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger

A helping hand from the strength and conditioning staff

By Jordy Bonvini
Sports Writer



Alyssa Hertel/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Athletic director and acting head football coach Corey Goff lifts weight in Muhlenberg's state of the art weight room.

Darin Thomas, assisted by Anna Kate Depalo and Deon Edwards, work together to keep the strength and conditioning department at Muhlenberg College up and running. The trainers work with the 22 varsity sports on campus to assist each team with specific workout routines which help them prepare and maintain their strength and agility for their seasons.

The department's main philosophy "is to provide a comprehensive, sport-specific strength and conditioning program that gives our student-athletes the opportunity to achieve their full athletic potential while minimizing the risk of injury." Although they manage several teams at once, the training staff provides every student-athlete the chance to succeed with a variety of adapted lifting and agility routines based on their personal strength and sport.

Thomas, Depalo and Edwards focus on various areas of emphasis, ranging from power and speed to nutrition to injury prevention, rehab and recovery.

The director of the strength and conditioning department is Darin Thomas. With over ten years of D-I experience, Thomas brought his knowledge of muscular strength and endurance, cardio respiratory endurance, nutrition and stress management to Muhlenberg College. Owning and directing Total Athletic Performance Training in Indiana, Pa. and prior work at several different schools—the Windsor Central School, University of Richmond and the University of Notre Dame—provided Thomas the opportunity to advance his knowledge of his field. The National Strength and Conditioning Association certified Thomas as a Strength and Conditioning Specialist; he is also a certified United State Weightlifting Federation Level 1 Club Coach.

Anna Kate Depalo assists Thomas, while specifically conditioning the women's lacrosse, soccer, volleyball and softball teams and is also the women's assistant soccer coach. Most don't know her by Anna Kate, since she strictly goes by 'Tattie' ever since she's been able to talk. After she graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2014, where she played soccer and majored in exercise science, she joined the Muhlenberg community. The following fall was her first as the women's assistant soccer coach. For Depalo, Muhlenberg created an opportunity for her to be an assistant trainer in addition to pursuing a coaching career.

Although they manage several teams at once, the training staff provides every student-athlete the chance to succeed

Last year Deon Edwards became the third member of the Muhlenberg athletic strength and conditioning staff. Edwards filled a vacancy left by former trainer Nick Aloi, who notably once performed a Strength & Conditioning internship in the National Football League with the Detroit Lions and the United States Navy Academy.

Edwards started at Muhlenberg in the 2017 spring semester. He started out at Charleston Southern University, where he played football. That is where Edwards's interest peaked in the strength and conditioning field. After three years, he transferred to Coastal Carolina University where he graduated with a degree in exercise and sports science.

After interning in the 2016 fall semester at Costal Carolina, he made his way to Pennsylvania to continue his training career in strength and conditioning. In his time in Allentown, he has been responsible for the conditioning of the baseball, wresting, field hockey and track teams. He is currently in the process of becoming a certified Strength and Conditioning specialist.

The three strength and conditioning staff collaborate on specialized training regimens for all 22-varsity sports teams.

"For every sport, I'll do the basic core lifts like squat and bench, but add sport specific assisted lifts," said Depalo. "For example, with women's lacrosse, I try to do chopping motions and single leg things but that differs from, say, softball, which would be more power moves."

Tattie also elaborated on how there are very different workouts when athletes are in or out of season.

"Out of season we typically do a lot of strength building and muscle building. While in season it's a lot more maintenance and circuit training."

Being an athlete myself, I have experienced these trainers' expertise first-hand. Not only are they very busy with a lot of work behind the scenes, but there is no doubt that their efforts in the Life Sports Center translate into student-athletes' success on the field. They devote countless hours prepping for every teams' workout, while tending to individuals needs in order to give them the most beneficial workout they can receive.

FROM VOLLEYBALL
PAGE 12

ton would remain undefeated as they took the first two sets, including a 25-11 route in the second set. However, the Mules came out firing in the third set by taking an early 10-3 lead and ultimately winning the set 25-22. In the fourth set the Mules completely dominated winning 25-14, that was highlighted by a 7-0 run that included three aces by Tornetta. The Mules won the fifth and final set 15-12, to cap off a spectacular comeback win and hand Scranton their first loss of the season.

In the second game against Stockton the Mules, much like in their first match, lost the first two sets of the game. Once again, the Mules showed resilience as they won the third set 25-22, won a thrilling back and forth fourth set 28-26 and won the fifth set 15-12 to win their second come from behind game of the day.

Coach Keckler reflected on the play of the team's leaders during these two wins and stated that their play influenced the rest of the team. "When the leaders stepped up their play yesterday it was like wildfire. All the members of the team jumped on board and worked hard to achieve the wins. It was an awesome day for our team and program."

Their actions speak louder than their words. If they do their jobs it inspires others on the team to follow suit

The team looks to carry their momentum into conference play as they face Haverford on September 20th. Keckler has high expectations for her captains as the team heads into conference play and continues their quest to reach the Centennial Conference playoffs and capture a conference crown. "We are expecting them to lead in scoring and relentless pursuit. Their actions always speak louder than their words. If they do their jobs it inspires others on the team to follow suit."

With Hubert, Tornetta, and Enestvedt leading the Mules with their talent and astounding leadership, the Mules should be a top contender in the Centennial Conference despite not having a single senior on the roster.

Step UP! Mules gets much needed changes

By Alyssa Hertel, Managing Editor
& Emily Davidson, Op/Ed Editor

Muhlenberg College prides itself in the sense of community the faculty, staff and students foster on campus. Freshman attend a viewing of the Sedehi Diversity Project, which shows how the college community is made up of people leading very different lives, during orientation weekend. A 'meet other LGBTQ faculty and students' event has become a recurring thing on campus.

The Muhlenberg Athletic Department is no different, going to great lengths to ensure that, at least on this campus, being a part of a sports team is so much more than just practices and games. One of these initiatives is Step UP! Mules, a bystander intervention program designed to teach, motivate and engage student athletes at Muhlenberg College to do the right thing and step up in uncertain and questionable scenarios that warrant attention. A program like this should come as no surprise, with the Athletic Department slogan being "22 Sports, One Team" and the emphasis on being a leader and making a difference.

According the to the athletic website, the goals of Step UP! Mules are: raising awareness of helping others, increasing motivation to help, developing skills and confidence when responding to problems or concerns, and ensuring the safety and well-being of self and others.

The program is furnished specifically for student athletes, highlighting the capacity for this subgroup of students to be leaders on campus. Additionally, this target group also encompasses a large proportion of Muhlenberg College's campus, given the amount of student-athletes, thereby enabling a bystander intervention program for a majority of students.

The program facilitates workshop programs which incorporate role-play scenarios and encourage student discussion, attempting to recreate scenarios in which college students may find themselves in. Workshops target an extensive array of issues of concern on college campuses, including sexual assault, domestic and relationship abuse, mental health and issues surrounding alcohol.

Historically, the program set-ups have varied, ranging from a single sports team attending a program to multiple sports teams and both genders attending the same session. One particularly affecting program featured the One Love Foundation, dedicated towards differentiating between healthy and unhealthy relationships and putting an end to relationship violence. This particular program featured a moving film and then a series of open discussion among team members. Other programs have involved acting out a scenario and responding appropriately, while the mental health program featured counselors from Muhlenberg's Counseling Center.

But the program that Muhlenberg athletes have come to know may be undergoing some much needed renovations soon. Lily Otu, the recently hired Assistant Director of Athletics for Student Athlete Development, Diversity and Inclusion, has expressed an interest in making Step UP! Mules more relevant and more impactful.

"I will keep the same concepts but I want to make the Step UP! program more relatable to students and have the scenarios be situations that they have faced or will potentially face as a student on a college campus," said Otu. "I do not have a lot of background on what was done previously, but I think keeping it interesting and engaging is always going to be a challenge with any yearly program. Step UP! is a great program, just like anything, presentation is everything."

Only time will tell whether or not Otu decides to make minor changes to the program or do a complete overhaul. While making Step UP! Mules a requirement for all varsity athletes is leaps ahead of other schools, there is one major obstacle in its path to actually making an impact—the student athletes themselves. Like the athletes that participate in the program, Alexis Pellechio '18, one of the athletic department interns last year, noticed that Step UP! Mules will never have the impact it's meant to if people don't start taking it seriously.

"I think that a lot of student athletes may not take the program seriously because they have been fortunate enough to not have experienced these problems and scenarios in their life," said Pellechio. "It is hard to take something seriously when you think that it could never happen to you, whether it be hazing, alcohol abuse, or assault."

While it's easy to blame student-athletes for hindering the success of Step UP! Mules, Otu realizes that this is a "big picture" issue.

"I believe it should be required of all students to dialogue about various bystander intervention topics. Student-athletes are just students that represent the institution on the athletic field, court or track. We have this program because it is important to the department and our student-athletes that we equip them with the tools to be great leaders, and bystander intervention is an imperative piece to that process."

Those behind the scene: Berg's athletic trainers

By Max Shapiro
Sports Writer

Here at Muhlenberg, athletics are a pretty big deal. It may be a NCAA Division 3 school, but much of the student body are also student-athletes. There is also a proud history of the 22 varsity sports programs. But what happens when the starting quarterback dislocates his throwing shoulder? Or the striker for girls' soccer twists her ankle? That is where the Sports Medicine program comes in, and their staff of four talented people whose influence on Mule athletes is instrumental to the school's athletic success.

Meet head athletic trainer Steve Nemes, associate athletic trainer Lindsay Porembo and assistant athletic trainers Sean Morse and Jamie Scalise. Each is a vital part of what keeps Muhlenberg athletes on the field or helps them get back on the field if they suffer an injury. We had a chance to talk with each of the four athletic trainers, and witnessed their devotion to sports medicine here at Muhlenberg.

Arriving in Allentown in 1982, Nemes has been the heart of the sports medicine program for the last 35 years. In college, he had previously been interested in dentistry, but became interested in sports medicine in college. As most trainers were also school teachers at the time, he graduated from West Chester University with a double major in secondary education and biology, as well as a minor in sports medicine. After discovering his passion for the profession, Nemes worked at high schools for a number of years, and wanted to make the jump to the college scene. When he first came to campus, the department had recently parted ways with its previous head athletic trainer. Nemes, who had been working as a high school biology teacher and athletic trainer, came here and assumed the position as head of the program. Since then, he has been instrumental in expanding the sports medicine staff, and in recent years they have hired the school's third and fourth athletic trainers to the staff. "What I love most about my job is interacting with the athletes, and having a positive impact on our teams," Nemes said.

In the fall of 2001, the Sports Medicine team was joined by current associate athletic trainer, Porembo. Originally from the Lehigh Valley area, Porembo was a three sport athlete in high school, earning varsity letters in field hockey, basketball and softball. Due to the large amount of time she spent around the athletic trainers at her high school, she became interested in sports medicine, and in her limited free time worked as a student trainer. After graduating from Pennsylvania State University in 2000 with a major in kinesiology, she took an internship with the sports medicine staff at Lafayette College. And then in 2001, she took her first full time job out of college, and has been here for the last 17 years helping student-athletes. "The part of my job that I really enjoy is when an athlete actually feels helped. A lot of times treatments can be very tedious and last months, but when a student-athlete is excited that they're finally back to 100 percent, that's very rewarding," Porembo said.

Another vital member of the athletic training staff is their newest and youngest member, Morse. In high school, Morse always had an interest in doing something in the medical field, he just didn't know what that would be. He originally thought his career might lie in physical therapy, but in conversations with the trainer at his high school, he learned the difference between sports medicine and physical therapy, and was drawn to the athletic training field. Seeking the opportunity to work exclusively with athletes, he graduated from West Chester University in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in athletic training. He then studied for his masters in athletic training at Ohio University graduate school, while working as the graduate assistant athletic trainer to the wrestling team for two years. His first job out of graduate school came at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill. The school was similar to Muhlenberg in regards to its size, academic and athletic levels. The men's lacrosse coach there, Kyle Hart, happened to be a Muhlenberg alum, which is where Morse first heard about the school. So when the opportunity came for Morse to move closer to home and work at a school he knew a lot about, it was an easy decision. He joined the staff in the fall of 2016, and spent a lot of time last semester working and traveling with the men's lacrosse team. "They were a fun team to travel with and an interesting sport to cover," Morse said.

Finally, the fourth member of the staff is assistant trainer Scalise. He first came to Muhlenberg in December of 2012, and has been here ever since. In high school Scalise was always around sports, being a football player and wrestler. He knew that he wanted to stay around sports, and thus athletic training seemed like a natural fit. He graduated from Canisius College in Buffalo, New York as a double major in sports medicine and physical education. After graduating, he got a job at the Orthopaedic Association of Allentown, then worked as the athletic trainer for two different high schools before coming to Muhlenberg. "I love working with a different variety of sports, because each one is unique in their own way. And having a contributing role on a sports team isn't something that many people get to experience past the college age," Scalise said.

The daily schedule of the staff is rigorous. The typical day could start as early as 5:30, if there is an early morning practice. The staff is then usually kept busy through the morning performing treatments on injured athletes. As the afternoon rolls along, the team takes care of a lot of pre-practice and treating and the early evening will consist of them attending various games and practices across campus. "Our days aren't done pretty much until the athletes are done needing us," Morse said of the usual day for the team.

The sports medicine staff's dedication to Muhlenberg athletes is second to none, and all 22 of the athletic teams should be grateful to have such passionate athletic trainers on hand. "Our athletic trainers as a whole are very passionate about helping our injured athletes get back to 100 percent," head baseball coach Tod Gross said.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

SPORTS

Thursday, September 21, 2017

No seniors, no problem

Volleyball team off to stellar start despite a roster without any seniors

Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

The Muhlenberg Mules women's volleyball team waits on the court prior to its games on Sept. 16, when they faced Scranton and Stockton.

By Josh Lederman
Sports Writer

The Muhlenberg Volleyball team has started the season at a remarkable 10-2 clip, despite not having a single senior on this year's team. Any team in any sport lacking a senior can cause a struggle to find players to take on a leadership role, however the volleyball team has three captains who have stepped up.

Head Coach Alexa Keckler exclaims that captains Shannon Hubert 19', Kelly Tornetta 19' and Maggie Enestvedt 20' "have done an excellent job driving our team." All three captains have made the All-Centennial Conference first or second teams at one point in their Muhlenberg careers and each are at the top of the leaderboards in many major statistical categories in the Centennial categories. Each captain has picked up where they have left off on the court last year, but most importantly they are directing the team with their leadership abilities.

Coach Keckler enters her eighth season as the Mules head coach and she explains that she has never coached a team without any seniors and acknowledges that this is an unusual scenario.

"We have had three seasons with two or three seniors but never zero. Although not having seniors is unusual, our team has done such a great job of maturing on the court and working together."

Each captain picked up where they left off on the court last year, but most importantly they are directing the team with leadership abilities

In Coach Keckler's first seven seasons as a head coach, the Mules have made the Centennial Conference playoffs three times, including a trip to the second round last year and two runner-up finishes in 2013 and 2014.

Although this year's squad faces an unusual situation, their chemistry, teamwork and comradery will enable them to compete for another Centennial Conference Tournament bid and hopefully reach their ultimate goal, winning the Conference Championship.

Keckler also believes that this seniorless season will have an impact on the future of the program.

"I believe it is helpful in keeping the winning tradition going and allowing us not to endure a rebuilding season."

By winning all four of their games in the Battlefield Classic and winning two games at the Buttermaker Tournament, this season has looked like anything but a rebuilding year. This past Saturday, the Mules played both the University of Scranton and Stockton University at Memorial Hall and faced adversity in both of their games.

In their first game against an undefeated Scranton squad it looked like Scran-

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MULES
VOLLEYBALL
9.23.17

12:00 PM
VS

4:00 PM
VS

MEMORIAL HALL
ALLENTOWN, PA

Football
VS
Sat. Sept. 23 at 12:00 pm
@ Huntingdon, PA

Women's Soccer
VS
Sat. Sept. 23 at 4:00 pm
Varsity Field

Women's Soccer
VS
Wed. Sept. 26 at 4:00 pm
@ Center Valley, PA

Men's Soccer
VS
Sat. Sept. 23 at 7:00 pm
Varsity Field

Men's Soccer
VS
Wed. Sept. 27 at 7:00 pm
Varsity Field

Field Hockey
VS
Sat. Sept. 23 at 1:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

Field Hockey
VS
Wed. Sept. 27 at 7:00 pm
@ Montclair, NJ

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The Muhlenberg Weekly

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 VOLUME CXL, ISSUE 3

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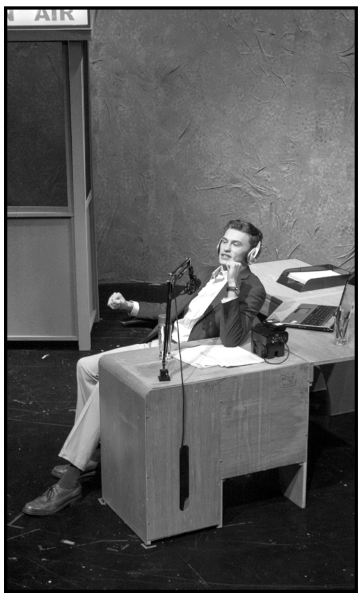

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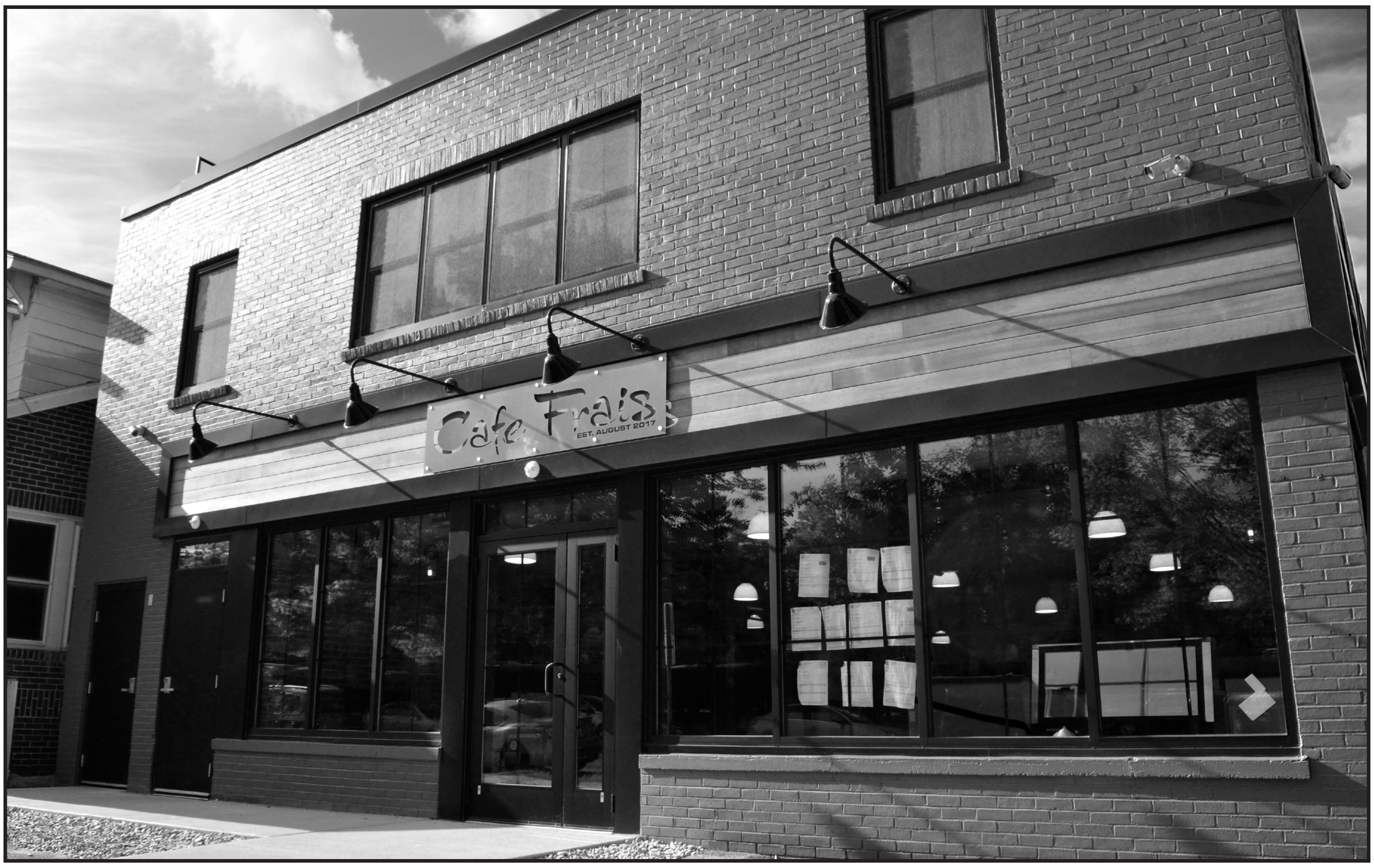

Cafe Fraís

When will the doors open?

Off campus eatery could be open and operating as early as next week.

By Chloe Gravereaux
Asst. Managing Editor

A new off-campus eatery called Cafe Fraís (pronounced like fry), located on Liberty and 23rd, will open as early as next week, said owner Jason Lund.

"We are aiming for soft openings next week, the first week of October, with a limited menu and hours. We hope to be fully operational by the end of October," said Lund.

The building is set to be inspected on Thursday, Sept. 28. If it passes, explained Lund, the cafe can move forward with limited hours Monday through Friday.

In addition to selling the staple NY-style pizza and bagels, New-York-themed Cafe Fraís will partner with Trè Gourmet Foodery, a food truck business that sources most of its ingredients from Pennsylvanian farmers and small businesses.

"I've teamed up with Trè Locally Sourced to create an amazing menu offering," said Lund. "We will also have a great vegan menu offering section, burritos and bowls, fresh made-to-order salads and other items."

Cafe Fraís is also a member of the iHeart Muhlenberg program, which means students will receive a discount upon showing their ID.

Lund is also making it a point to hire students and is still looking for additional help.

"Presently all positions are open: cashier, line work, events and parties etc." said Lund, "We're trying to finalize this week."

Lund told The Weekly back in April that he plans to work with Dean of Students Allison Gulati to create flexible shifts.

"A big part of my business model is hiring students with a flexible schedule," Lund told The Weekly in April, "to create an atmosphere for students to have a good job. That's a big part of this."

Lund is also talking to the school about creating a delivery service that will bring food straight to the dorms, which is a popular idea among students.

"We will work with the school on what's allowed and what we're able to do," said Lund. "Worst case we bring it to the front door/desk and manage from there. We will figure

SEE **CAFE** | PAGE 5

'Dirty Pross' receives attention of staff, soon to be upgraded

By Ian Adler
Asst. News Editor

Before first-year students even arrive at Muhlenberg's campus, they're tasked with the question: do I want air conditioning and a bigger room in Walz, or do I buy a fan small enough to fit in Prosser? While they sweat it out for the first couple of weeks of school, the Office of Residential Services is hard at work scrubbing clean and designing renovations for the hallways of "Dirty Pross."

"While we can't do much right now about the physical space and the construction, we can certainly make it feel a little more like home," said Kathleen Mangold, Associate Director of Residential Education. "The RAs have a little bit of responsibility in making that happen."

Jacob Dengler '20, an RA in Prosser and former resident of both Prosser and Walz, is able to offer a different perspective on the atmosphere of 'Berg's most infamous residence hall.

"'Dirty Pross' just seems like a term that we use every year and it's more of just a thing that people who live in Walz say to people who live in Prosser," said Dengler. "We don't have air conditioning in Prosser, the showers are tighter and the stalls don't always seem as clean because there's more residents on that floor and the other buildings are renovated more."

Many residents, including Dengler, commented on Prosser's most notable attribute: "the social dorm."

"After moving there, it was like 'wow, this is a social dorm and everyone talks to each other, says hi to each other and people leave their doors open,'" added Dengler. "I wasn't used to that."

Aside from the occasional mess on weekend nights, Dengler and resident Caroline Kinney '21 both agreed that Prosser isn't as unclean as its reputation often lends it. As housekeep-

SEE **PROSSER** | PAGE 5

Editorial

Actions speak louder than tweets

Trump's tirade attacks national peaceful protests

Colin Kaepernick may not currently play in the National Football League, but his absence has inspired a movement. Kaepernick began his protest against police brutality and for social justice alone in August 2016, but this past Sunday, over 200 NFL players chose to not stand during the national anthem. With the league and their coaches on their side, at least one player from each team engaged in some form of protest— locked arms and raised fists, kneeling and sitting, remaining in the locker room.

Last Friday, Trump embarked on a tirade against any player who chose to kneel during the anthem, referring to them as "that son of a bitch" and calling for owners to fire those who engaged in protest.

Although Trump may have his own longstanding issues with the NFL, given his role in the 1980s with the United Football League, it is simply unacceptable for the president of our country — the supposed leader of the free world — to utter such degrading and divisive comments like those spewed this past weekend. He ignores the values that act as the foundation of our country — in particular, freedom of expression, pluralism and, most importantly, tolerance.

Trump may argue that his comments were not racially motivated, but that's hard to believe when compared to the rest of his rhetoric: he has ostracized Mexican immigrants and called for a ban on Muslims, refused to denounce white supremacists and now has demanded conformity and obedience over championing freedom of expression in a league where the majority of players are black.

These symbols of protest against racial inequality have become an argument about respect. While some argue that these demonstrations are disrespecting the flag, the military and the country, they are fighting for equality and for the American ideals that truly make this country great.

But, most importantly, they are initiating a conversation that few people want to engage in.

But, most importantly, they are initiating a conversation that few people want to engage in. By kneeling, these players, and those joining their movement, are challenging the idea that having a discussion about race and inequality is unpatriotic.

Trump can continue his hate-inciting speeches and call for players of America's most popular sport to give up their cause or be fired, but with their unified and poignant act of peaceful opposition, they are not the people disrespecting the United States of America. The reason certain individuals are so infuriated by non-confrontational action like this is because it forces those enjoying the status quo of privilege — in whatever forms it takes — to stop and acknowledge problems that are difficult to discuss.

Racial inequality and injustice directly affects members of the Muhlenberg community and it's time for the rest of us to step up.

A confrontation with security involving racist remarks. Slogans with racial undertones painted on bed sheets hanging in Parents Plaza. Posts on Yik Yak that warranted a town hall on race relations. A solidarity sit-in in Seegers Union. While some may have seen these events as inconvenient, they forced students, faculty and staff to confront issues too often left invisible.

With two Muhlenberg football players choosing to kneel during the anthem and several racially fueled incidents this semester being pushed to the side, our community must no longer be passive to the injustices that occur not only in our country, but on our campus.

It's always easier to ignore something that doesn't affect you, but that is the reason issues like this still exist today.

From the Editorial Board of
The Muhlenberg Weekly

This semester's TV sweet tooth

By Taylor Garrison
Op/Ed Writer

I have a note in my phone dedicated to all of the shows I have watched each semester of college. At first, I couldn't understand why I was so compelled to do this. However, I soon realized I measure each semester by which shows I watch. Fall of freshman year was all about "Parks and Recreation" and my full-blown desire to become Leslie Knope. I would often watch a few episodes to avoid writing a history paper which probably wasn't very Leslie Knope of me to be honest. Honestly, I am just glad my roommate wasn't there when I watched the series finale and cried my eyes out.

It was after this passionate viewing that I first realized my life changed depending on what show I was currently binge-watching. When I watched "Black Mirror," I covered the camera on my laptop out of paranoia. As it turns out, many other viewers of the show have done the exact same. "Black Mirror" has made me seriously paranoid even though I have never done anything remotely close to the people on the show. Similarly, when I watched "The Get Down," I was always so inspired to write and create art because of all the creative artists on the show.

Now you might be wondering, what show defines this semester? "The Great British Bake Off." I'm sure many people reading this have at least heard of the show. If not, I usually just refer to it as the "anti-Cutthroat Kitchen" when talking about to people who haven't watched it. Don't get me wrong, I love some Alton Brown shenanigans, but "Bake Off" is just completely different. It's a famous British baking show, hence the name, with a few seasons on Netflix. Featured on the show are judges Mary Berry, your cool grandma who especially loves when the chefs use alcohol, and Paul Hollywood, a combination of Bobby Flay and Simon Cowell, who are just half the fun. Mel and Sue are the comedian hosts who always have a perfect dessert pun to make.

"Bake Off" is the ultimate show to watch during school. From the music to the beautiful shots of the field they film in, it is peaceful. I usually put it on in the background as I do some cleaning or homework. Unlike "Cutthroat Kitchen" or "Chopped," the contests are identical throughout the season. From the first episode, I always have my favorites; none of which have won yet, though. Most seasons even have young contestants! I love rooting for them even though they make me feel bad for not knowing how to make Victoria Sandwiches and Floating Islands. Seriously, how do they do that?!

Aside from the peaceful baking, there are moments I have laughed out loud. One of the signature quotes of "Bake Off" is "soggy bottom," which Paul or Mary says when the pastry is too wet instead of being crispy. Every "Bake Off" episode is sprinkled with innuendo and comments about Mary's bright jackets.

"Bake Off" brings an important lightness to my normally stressed-filled day. I know when I put on an episode, I will be in for a treat filled with laughs and sweet moments between contestants.

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A need for speaker diversity

By Jordan Zucker
Op/Ed Writer

As someone who was a split-ticket voter in the 2016 Presidential and Gubernatorial elections, I commonly walk the line between progressive and conservative politics. When I arrived at Muhlenberg College on Aug. 26, I wasn't sure whether my fellow classmates would lean more towards the left or more right. While it might be naive in 2017 to hope that a college campus would be politically moderate, I was expecting a campus which was tolerant of a large part of the political spectrum.

After settling into my classes, I was curious to see what kind of speakers Muhlenberg would invite to their campus. In my US Congress and Media and Society Intersectionality classes, I was assigned to attend several talks hosted in communal spaces. The first and only talk I have seen so far was William Mazzarella's speech on Trump and the concept of "jouissance." Mazzarella's speech tried to specifically highlight the psychological pleasure of citizens who hate Trump's presidency, but enjoy the ability to freely criticize his policy and conservative fervor.

While I did enjoy Mazzarella's talk, and found it quite informative, it tended to skip over reasons why Trump supporters have still stuck with him today. In my mind, at least, this creates a feedback loop which doesn't explain why people voted for him in the first place in addition to reinforcing more negative stereotypes of conservative voters.

I am afraid, however, of what the consequences would be if a more conservative speaker was invited to our campus. In light of the protests which have occurred at UC Berkeley, most of which have turned violent, I wonder where Muhlenberg stands on supporting the freedom of speech of their students.

I am not the only one who believes that college campuses have been unfair in inviting other views to the table. This summer, for example, Johns Hopkins University announced a $150 million effort to "establish a forum for the civil discussion of divisive issues." Additionally, in 2016, the University of Chicago established the "Committee on Freedom of Expression," composed of a range of faculty members led by University president Robert J. Zimmer. The report concluded that, "without a vibrant commitment to free and open inquiry, a university ceases to be a university."

In conclusion, I would strongly recommend that Muhlenberg take a more active approach in finding more politically balanced orators who tell both sides of the story. I am more impressed by a speech which brings facts and reasonable arguments to the student body as opposed to one that takes a narrow minded stance meant to support one point of view. It is important that students who are still growing throughout their college years receive equal, unbiased reports about not only their country and local politics, but international news as well during this pivotal time. I hope in the upcoming weeks and months at Muhlenberg I can experience a larger variety of opinions which will expand my knowledge of the world we live in.

Making the right call

By Emily Davidson
Op/Ed Editor

I cannot keep you from drinking — whether you are legally of age or underage. Nor does this opinion piece aspire to redefine the binge drinking culture ever present on so many college campuses across America, including our own. But I can enforce the right thing to do when things go wrong. I can tell you it is absolutely imperative for you to act quickly, decisively and morally when a life is at stake. I can rationalize to you how a police citation for underage drinking is nothing compared to the loss of life-the absence from this world of a friend, peer, classmate, teammate, son, daughter, brother, sister, significant other.

I can rationalize to you how a police citation for underage drinking is nothing compared to the loss of life.

The loss of Beta Theta Pi pledge, Penn State student, son and brother Tim Piazza on February 4, 2017 was a devastating tragedy. The rapid loss of Lafayette College lacrosse player and freshman McCrae Williams followed on Sept. 11 and now we grieve for the loss of Louisiana State University freshman Maxwell Raymond Gruver, a Phi Delta Theta fraternity pledge, occurring on Sept. 14.

The stories behind these losses vary substantially. Piazza's case has been attributed to hazing and an extensive delay in calling, multiple falls and traumatic head injuries. In Williams' case, District Attorney Morganelli proclaimed, "I do not see this as a Penn State case." McCrae's loss is also ascribed to a traumatizing head injury; however this occurred after a day drink with no hazing involvement, in which friends periodically checked up on his status. Meanwhile, the investigation behind Gruver's death is in progress.

Whereas the mechanism behind the tragic loss of these young men vary; there is still a focal similarity — drinking in the company of others and no immediate professional medical attention. I implore upon you the simple and ethical plea to look out for one another when drinking. These events did not occur in solidarity; they occurred in the presence of others.

I concede our medical amnesty policy at Muhlenberg College is not infallible. While it offers protection from the College's alcohol and drug abuse policies, a state law would be an improvement by including protection from an Allentown PD citation. This policy operates by particular guiding principles to encourage students to call in an event of an medical emergency related to drugs and/or alcohol for themselves or others, even when the student calling is under the influence.

Whether it be a close friend, an acquaintance, a sorority sister, a fraternity brother, a teammate, or a stranger you met that night — it is imperative for you to know when and who to call. I urge you to accept a fault on your record, like underage drinking, for the preservation of a life. I cannot reiterate how essential it is to know when and how to summon emergency medical attention, to ask for help and to not delay this decision.

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a drone!

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Writer

Yes, you read that right. We're talking about drones today. This is my big real adult article and if you can't handle that then you can find the door. In case you haven't heard of them, drones are basically those fly boys everyone loves from Tom Cruise's finest film, "Top Gun," except there are no boys and they are approximately the size of that box that is in the corner of my room. Next is figuring out what they do; drones are often used by the military for some stuff that I'm not sure about, probably dropping bombs on enemies of the US. But they are also used by Jeff Bezos to deliver his goods to those Amazon Prime members that lord their membership over us normal Amazon members. And some drones are owned by private owners who think terrorizing normal college students is funny and won't let me sleep.

But that's beside the point. This article is about whether or not drones are ethical in the military and all that junk, it is not about one drone owner who has been tormenting this poor boy for the past two weeks and who is too much of a coward to actually face me. So, drones are probably used to drop bombs on some people in some places, I mean there's a war going on, right? Wait, is there a war? I just looked it up and apparently, we are in like three wars. When did that happen? Wow, maybe the article should be that. No, this is an article about the ethics of drone use, both in the private sector and in the public sector. Are drones too dangerous for them to be allowed into the hands of just about anyone? I'd argue yes, since they all have the capability to drop bombs.

Let's start with their use by the military. I've heard that drones are good because no one gets hurt when they are used instead of planes. But that can't be true, someone has to get hurt, right? I mean, it's war. I looked it up and none of our fly boys get hurt but the guys we are fighting, in fact, do get hurt. That's good, right? Less people getting hurt is always good. This problem can't be that easy, drones are a hot button political issue today there must be something else to this.

I just looked it up (also I'm gonna do a quick plug for Wikipedia because that's where I found all this info so check them out and apparently they need donations so please donate to them to keep Wikipedia free) anyway, supposedly a lot of innocent people die because of drones and that's not good. That's pretty sad. Now, with further research, it turns out that a lot of innocent people were often killed before we used drones too, so maybe the issue we should be talking about isn't drones but it's war; whether or not we should be in these wars or how we conduct ourselves in these wars. That's what the article should be about, except that's a pretty sad topic and I think I'm too far into the article to change what it's about, so I guess I'll get back to drones.

Let's talk about drones used by private citizens, is this cool? Many say no, but some say yes. Some people use drones for pictures, which I'm sure is fine. Unless they get in other people's pictures, in which case that would be bad. Then the responsibility is on the drone owner to not get in the way of things, but how would they do that? That is not a rhetorical question, I actually am not sure how someone operating a drone would be able to stay out of people's way.

Actually, now that I think about it, I'm not sure how drones work. Do you have to wear one of those VR helmets? If so, that begs the question, how do you know that your drone is actually flying around and not just trapped in the VR zone? That's a gamble I think no one should take, which is why I've come to the conclusion that drones should be outlawed, for the protection of those who may accidentally believe that they are peering into the real world but are instead seeing some wacky backwards VR version of the world.

So now, I am calling all to action. Let us free these drone owners from themselves. At 2:00 a.m. this Friday, I am staging a protest under Victor's Lament where we shall ride together and take down the drones that are holding their owners' prisoner and tormenting us. I will supply the rocks and the softballs; you, my loyal fans, will supply the muscle and together we will take down each and every single drone on the face of this planet, starting with the one that's been following me for the past two weeks. Hold on, it has a note attached to it, the note reads "Do not resist. Call off the protest" and then my home address and a picture of my illegitimate son, if you are reading this Douglas I love you very much.

I'll still be at the protest, our voices must be heard, if anything happens to my illegitimate son whom I love very much, I will be devastated, but this issue is more important than any one person.

If you'd like to join the rebellion or like the article or just want to chat, please contact me on Facebook.

Campus Safety Notes

Monday, September 18th
7:13 a.m. – Fire Alarm Sounding
On Gordon Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from steam. The system was silenced and reset without incident.

10:25 a.m. – Hit & Run
On Prosser Drive, there was a report of a truck striking the overhang. The investigation will continue.

8:48 p.m. – Fire Alarm Sounding
On Liberty Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from cooking. The system was silenced and reset without incident.

Tuesday, September 19th
12:10 a.m. – Disabled Vehicle
In the Village parking lot, there was a report of a disabled vehicle. AAA responded and assisted the student with the vehicle.

10:30 a.m. – Suspicious Activity
On 22nd Street, there was a report of suspicious activity. A Campus Safety Officer checked the area and spoke to residents without incident.

9:33 p.m. – Injured Student
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Wednesday, September 20th
3:19 p.m. – Accident
In the 23rd and Gordon Street parking lot, there was a report of a tree limb that had fallen on a vehicle. Plant Operations was notified to respond.

7:24 p.m. – Theft
On Albright Street, there was a report of a bicycle theft. There are no suspects at this time.

9:19 p.m. – Noise Complaint
On Tilghman Street, there was a report of a noise complaint. Campus Safety responded and spoke to students without further incident.

Thursday, September 21st
5:17 a.m. – Sick Student
In East Hall, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

9:28 a.m. – Abandon 911
On Chew Street, there was a call received from an emergency phone. Upon arrival, no one was in the area.

9:34 a.m. – Sick Student
At the Rehearsal House, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the Health Center by a Campus Safety Officer.

Friday, September 22nd
6:06 p.m. – Fire Alarm Sounding
In Taylor Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from a water leak. Simplex and Plant Operations were notified to respond.

Saturday, September 23rd
2:00 p.m. – Noise Complaint
Off campus, there was a report of a noise complaint. Campus Safety responded and spoke to students without further incident.

2:28 p.m. – Sick Student
In Walz Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS and Allentown EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Sunday, September 24th
1:16 a.m. – Sick Student
In Walz Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Campus Safety responded and the Health Center was notified.

1:52 a.m. – Alcohol Violation
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. Muhlenberg College EMS and Allentown EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital.

2:02 a.m. – Alcohol Violation
On Back Drive, there was a report of an alcohol violation. Muhlenberg College EMS and Allentown EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital.

4:40 a.m. – Found Property
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a found wallet. A message was left with the owner to pick up the item at the Campus Safety office.

8:00 a.m. – Accident
In the Robertson/South parking lot, there was a report of damage found to a vehicle, including scratches and a dent. There are no suspects.

1:41 p.m. – Suspicious Activity
In Seegers Union, there was a report of suspicious activity. Upon arrival, nothing suspicious was noted.

1:50 p.m. – Found Property
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a found cell phone. A message was left with the owner to pick up the item at the Campus Safety office.

2:20 p.m. – Sick Student
In Brown Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

4:02 p.m. – Injured Student
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

11:15 p.m. – Vandalism
In the Martin Luther parking lot, there was a report of vandalism to a vehicle, causing damage to the driver's side mirror. There are no suspects at this time.

11:37 p.m. – Sick Student
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student refused further transport.

The Weekly Staff wishes everyone a safe and happy weekend!

New additions and hidden gems: Trexler Library gets an upgrade

By Sydney Coplin
News Writer

Trexler Library got a makeover this past summer as renovations were done throughout all three levels of the building.

Tina Hertel, Trexler Library director, described why the enhancements were made. She explained that much of the lounge furniture in Trexler was refurbished "generally because of age and wear and tear."

In addition to the updates made to the more traditional pieces, such as the leather chairs and sofas — a favorite among library-goers — Hertel made it clear that the work did not stop there.

"I also wanted to incorporate different kinds of furniture in the library that we didn't currently have. I thought students would like some fun and more casual seating as well."

One of these exciting new additions are two sets of Swagr seat collaborations. "I like the view, and they're very comfortable." The Swagr seats, which are located on A-level near the windows, were definitely approved by Shannon Kirk '21. Another student, Emma Paitel '21, added that "the location is nice, and they are very modern."

As well as the futuristic Swagr seats, eight large bean bags were placed throughout the B and C level reading terraces. Two students that were enjoying the comfort of the bean bags were Deja Frazier '21 and Sophia Echevarria '21, who both happily stated that they are "just the right size!"

The new, or newly refurbished, pieces of furniture were not the only upgrades made to the library. Hertel noted that there are also many resources that have actually been here for about a year or two, but many students have neglected to take advantage of them.

"Last year we installed a One-Button Studio, which makes it easy for students to do practice presentations, practice lines for a play, etcetera."

Besides the easy-to-use production studio located on B-level, other technology advancements that have been made to the library include: new television monitors with Blue Ray DVD players, book scanners for easier scanning of books and articles and two mobile collaboration stations, just to name a few.

All of these features are part of what Hertel described as "the campus's Strategic Plan as well as a new campus Master Plan that will have a strong focus on learning and study spaces across campus."

Part of the Plan definitely requires feedback. Hertel encourages students to analyze how the library resources and furniture are helping (or not helping) their study experience, and then report their thoughts. Her goal is also for students to be more informed.

"I would like students to be more aware of the variety of study spaces in the library and that these spaces, technologies and services are really for them and to help them with their study needs."

Sophia Echevarria (left) and Deja Frazier (right) study on newly added bean bag chairs.

Sydney Coplin/The Muhlenberg Weekl

FROM **PROSSER**
PAGE 1

ing and the RA staff continue to fight the war for cleanliness, the topics of air conditioning, accessibility and space are continually brought to the attention of residential staff, as well as the college's Capital Projects Manager David Rabold.

"We're in a very preliminary stage," said Rabold. "The emphasis is on making sure that the freshmen experience is consistent, as positive as can possibly be and matches with what other schools are doing as well."

Rabold and the ORS staff, as well as other college officials, have conducted numerous tours of the building, gathered the opinions of the 'Berg community and investigated architects and engineers in the hope to get the ball rolling. Rabold explained that "no decisions have been made and all questions are being asked."

Rabold and Mangold have discussed potential areas of expansion and renovation to the building's structure. To renovate the building it would cost in the figures of $100,000 a bed or $300 to $325 a square foot which, according to Rabold, is the industry standard.

"Could we put a fourth floor in Prosser? Because of the way the building was built originally, it's very costly," said Rabold. "It could take us almost to the point of costing as much as building a new building."

Emphasis on an elevator, a luxury currently exclusive to Walz, was something that Mangold had stressed.

"Students with accessibility issues as well as their parents should be able to visit all parts of the building," said Mangold. "I know that is a concern for the whole college and I know it's all about the money and making sure we have that to really increase the amenities in that building."

> **"The emphasis is on making sure that the freshmen experience is consistent, as positive as can possibly be and matches with what our other schools are doing as well."**

Bethlehem-based architectural firm Spillman Farmer has already been tasked with evaluating the extent and minutia of the renovations after their successful work redoing the Life Sports Center, East Hall and Village. Both Mangold and Rabold drew on the renovations to East during 2013, which converted it from the "least-requested building" to "a more comfortable place to live in general" without compromising the "vintage charm" of the dorm.

Among other amenities, more individual bathroom spaces and kitchens for students with severe allergies have also been discussed. However, as to no surprise, the question of 'where' inhibits the swift construction of any external amenities.

Currently, the Master Plan is in draft form. Senior staff intend to present the Plan to Buildings and Grounds as well as the Board of Trustees near the end of October and adjust the plan based on feedback. A final run in January will hopefully bring approval to the Plan and fundraising and development soon after, with drawings and construction potentially starting as early as the end of 2018 or 2019.

While Prosser's charm adds a unique dynamic for everyone running the gauntlet of freshmen year, the Muhlenberg community may be remiss to ignore its need for thorough improvements. The "big ideas" that Mangold and others have been organizing are undoubtedly a big undertaking, but as they get the ball rolling, student and community feedback will continue to drive the aim of the transformation. An equal playing field of options for incoming students and the comfort of air conditioning might even help to improve the general cleanliness of good old "Dirty Pross."

IAN ADLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Grounds staff recently added a flower bed and tree to the border of Prosser, adding a nice touch of green in an otherwise concrete plain.

FROM **CAFE**
PAGE 1

out how to get orders there though."

Although most students were willing to check the place out — and quite a few were very excited about the dorm delivery service — Caroline Erb '18 worried about the Cafe being too geared towards students.

"Look at the places around it. They fit in with the town, whereas this is a lot more modern-looking," said Erb. "It just doesn't seem like it's geared for Allentown."

Erb's biggest concern is potential gentrification of the area.

"I'm worried as to what it will mean if we start to see more of that popping up around here," said Erb.

She was also critical of the pronunciation of Cafe Fraís.

> **Erb hopes those in the area who need jobs — not just students, but adults as well — take advantage of the opportunities.**

"I think he's kind of playing off the typical thing you see today, where it's ironic things or trendy kind of stuff," she added.

Erb was happy to hear that Cafe Fraís would be working with local farmers for food sourcing, and hopes those in the area who need jobs — not just students, but adults as well — take advantage of the opportunities.

In addition to the cafe, located on the first floor, the building will house a single apartment upstairs and storage lockers downstairs.

Students have already contacted Lund about renting the 1700 sq. ft. upstairs, which, although still under construction, will include two full bedrooms, one and a half baths and a living area.

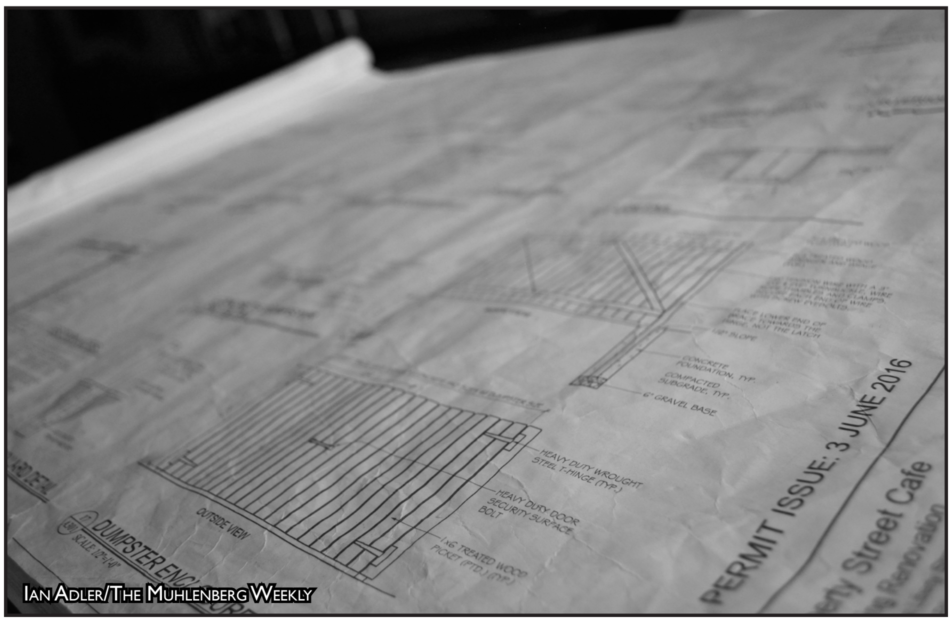
The lockers are being constructed now and will be installed within the next two weeks.

Lund had originally planned to open before the start of the semester but ran into a few setbacks.

"City inspections delayed us twice and [we were] compounded by an issue that's been fixed with life safety and HVAC equipment," said Lund.

Any suggestions can be sent to jglund33@gmail.com. Normal hours of operation are 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m for the cafe, 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. for the lockers. Check muhlenbergweekly.com, which will be listing any updates to the hours of operation.

IAN ADLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

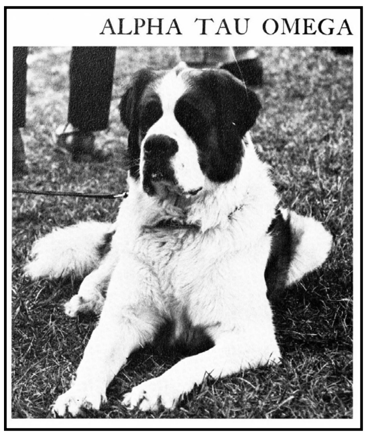

PERMIT ISSUE: 3 JUNE 2016
DUMPSTER ENCLOSURE
SCALE: 1/2"=1'-0"
OUTSIDE VIEW
HEAVY DUTY WROUGHT STEEL T-HINGE (TYP.)
HEAVY DUTY DOOR SECURITY SURFACE BOLT
1x6 TREATED WOOD PICKET (PTD.) (TYP.)
CONCRETE FOUNDATION, TYP.
COMPACTED SUBGRADE, TYP.
6" GRAVEL BASE
Street Cafe
IAN ADLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Equipment, boxed or not, dominates the space of the currently vacant cafe space. Tools, toasters and various other items lay around on countertop surfaces that will soon hold plates and orders (right). Blueprints detail the outdoor space in the rear of the building (left).

This Week in Muhlenberg College History: Frat's best friend on campus

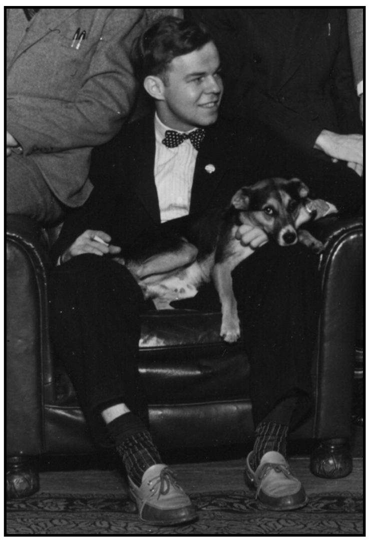
By Karl Schultz
News Writer

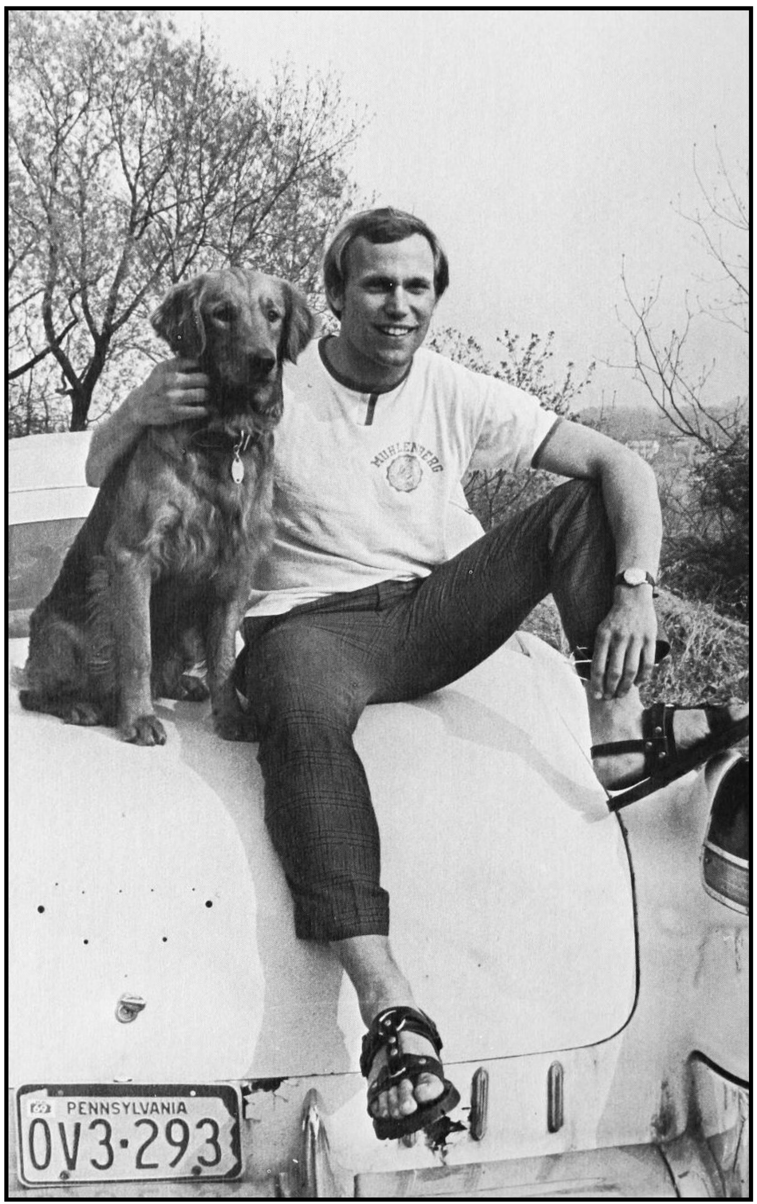
"This Week in Muhlenberg College History" will bring to light past events, individuals, and forgotten aspects of Muhlenberg history that have been buried within the College's 169 years of existence.



Whether you participate in it or not, Greek life has been a large part of Muhlenberg history since its opening. This history of Greek pride is especially true within the fraternity community, with Muhlenberg not becoming coed until the 1950s. Some early aspects of Greek life include Muhlenberg's first ever fraternity – Phi Gamma Delta – which only lasted for 37 years, Muhlenberg's oldest current fraternity – Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) – and the longest continuously running fraternity on Muhlenberg's campus – Sigma Phi Epsilon – which has been on campus for nearly 80 straight years. All of these, even including Muhlenberg's first sorority Delta Phi Nu in 1958, have a wealth of history with countless interesting facts and anecdotes. As valuable information as that may be, I decided to look at Muhlenberg's Greek life in a different way; through its dogs.

With a long standing history in any fraternity, the "frat hound" or "house dog" has held its place as unofficial mascot of college fraternities for centuries. After browsing Total Frat Move's website, an act I do not suggest, I found articles ranging from "Ranking the 15 Best Frat Hound Breeds," featuring the poetic phrase "Bassett Hounds are chill as f**k" to the more nuanced "House dogs are the best dogs," which is actually not an article at all but instead a picture of a dog with no text added. What I learned from this valuable resource is that the house dog is not only a lovable pet, but also a cherished brother.





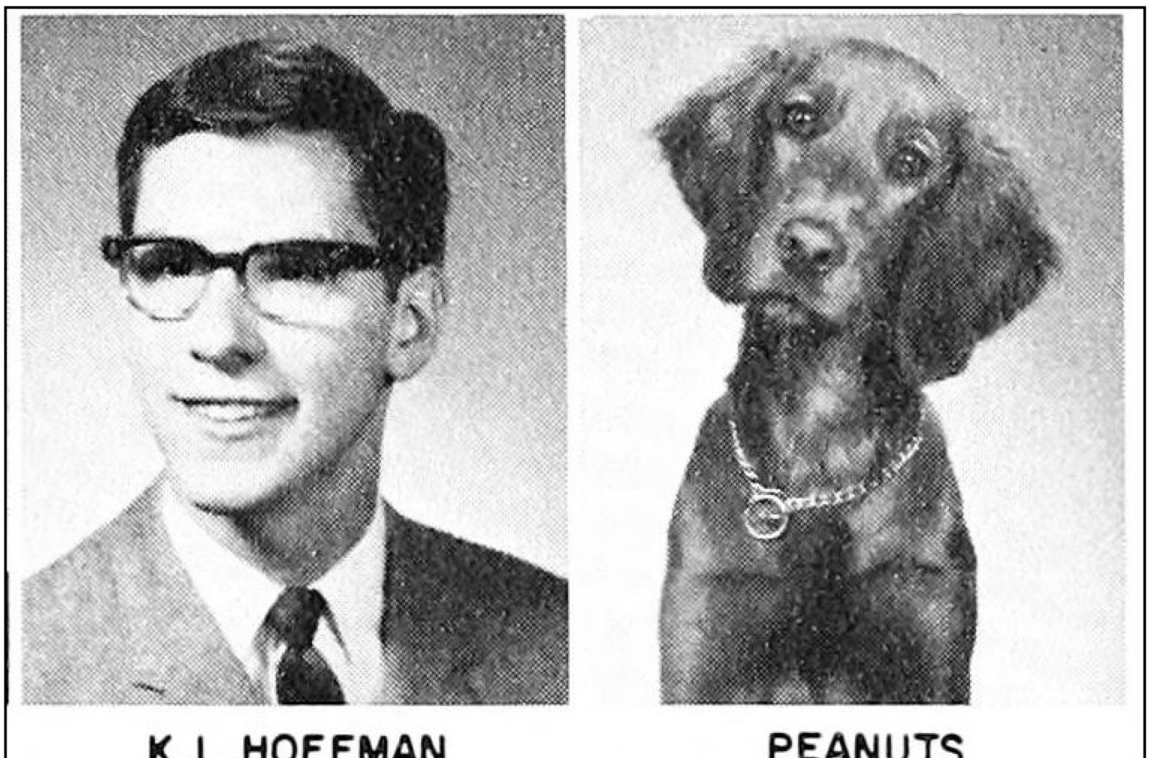
All photos courtesy of Muhlenberg College Archives

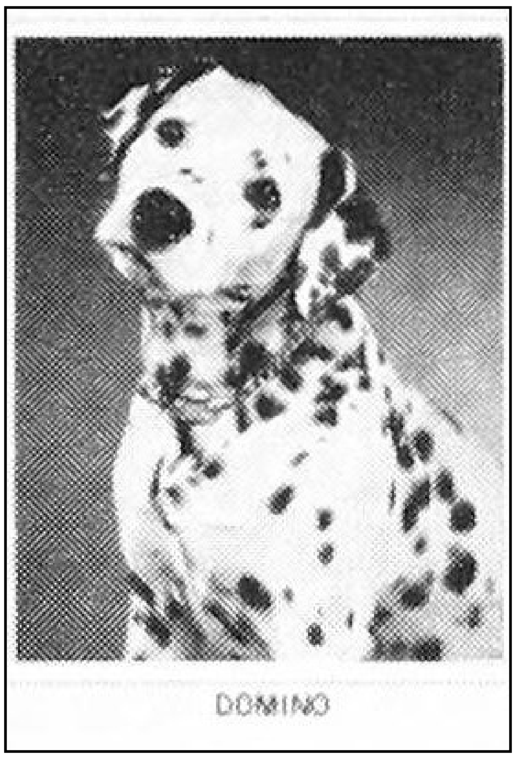
Above: Donald Crane '70 with PKT's frat hound in 1970.
Left: Butch lounges with a PKT brother in 1942.
Above Left: ATO's lovable frat hound Gulliver in 1965.

The Muhlenberg men shared in this sentiment, with an adorable history of house dogs old and young. The first appearance of a house dog I could find was a blurry photograph of ATO in the 1933 yearbook. It wasn't until two years later that he was clearly visible; even wearing an ATO vest.

Almost 10 years later in 1942, Phi Kappa Tau (PKT), was first pictured with their house dog, Butch, and it seemed like the craze was catching on. It wasn't until the 1950s that the house dogs were not only pictured regularly, but also named. This gave insight into the interesting dog names chosen.

Throughout the 1950s, the two fraternities with the biggest love for their four legged friends were Sig Ep and ATO. Sig Ep naturally named one of their dogs "Sig," but also had the likes of "Pierre," "Barfa," and a dalmatian named "Domino" whereas ATO named one of their early dogs the surprisingly mundane "Chris," while "Cerberus" was their house dog throughout the 50s and into the 60s.





All photos courtesy of Muhlenberg College Archives

Above: TKE's Peanuts is just another brother in the 1965 yearbook.
Right: SPE's Domino poses for the camera in 1963.

Slowly but surely other fraternities joined in, and by the early 60s, the fraternities without dogs were in the minority. In 1962 alone, ATO had their trusty Cerberus, Phi Epsilon Pi had Jabez, Sig Ep had Domino, and TKE had Baron. This pattern continued, and as the population grew in size, so did the dogs. Nothing topped ATO's adorably large St. Bernard named Gulliver. By the late 60s, fraternities such as Lambda Chi Alpha and Phi Kappa Tau had not only joined the Muhlenberg family, but also brought with them furry friends like Cindy and Mr. Bacchus. Muhlenberg house dog culture seemingly peaked in 1968 when Sig Ep had two house dogs: trusty companion Domino as well as newcomer Sham.

Though I feared the trend was ending due to a sudden lack of house pets in the first few years of the 1970s, I was pleasantly surprised that not only did the house dog survive the hippie era, but came back seemingly stronger than ever. Even sororities were showing their love with Phi Beta Kappa's pet Barney in 1974.

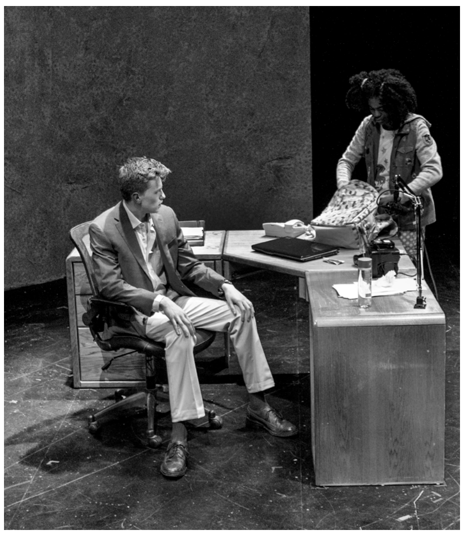
Unfortunately, the early 1980s saw little mention of house pets, but another late decade resurgence showed one last hope before house dogs went the way of the dodo in 1993. The last evidence of a house dog at Muhlenberg comes in the form of Apollo, PKT's dog pictured in the 1993 issue of the Ciarla.

Though a thing of the past at Muhlenberg and seemingly dwindling elsewhere, the frat hound has a long and proud history of bringing joy wherever it called home.

Arts & Culture

"...If thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought." — George Orwell's *1984*

Wake Up



By Eitana Friedman-Nathan
Arts & Culture Writer

Preview of Shadow Day/187: a timely exploration of politics and prejudice

This particular moment in history is one that is full of controversial narratives regarding race, religion, sexuality and a host of other deeply troubling topics. In a world where headlines continuously inform us of immigration laws, hate crimes, protests, attacks and so on, it becomes easy for the college student, safely tucked away from the fear of looking these issues in the eye, to forget the way they manifest themselves off the TV screen.

Enter *Shadow Day* by Steven Dietz and *187* by Jose Rivera, two plays that unabashedly address issues of hate and discrimination in psychologically thrilling and morally twisting manners. *Shadow Day* takes a look into a conservative radio show host's psyche as he grapples with the moral implications of the, as he puts it, brutal humor and well placed hate he unapologetically forces on the general public. The talk-show host is confronted not just by the concrete repercussions that he faces, such as calls from "emotionally driven not belief driven" activists, but by the fears of the reality he creates.

Director Genevieve Wall '18 explains that this play offers the real and blunt realities that may be easily avoided but are still a driving force in today's social atmosphere. Wall wanted this play to explicitly address the psychological repercussions faced by not only those who are targeted by such overt racism and prejudice that the talk-show host embodies, but also by he who houses those feelings. Furthermore, the play calls into question the audience's own morals, asking them to question what fate this man deserved, and determine if he is capable of a drastic change in character.

187, a play written by an immigrant playwright, explores the dynamic between a seemingly hypocritical white male factory worker and his Latina coworker as they wait for the bus. In a complex way, the play does not only question the kinds of prejudice humans embody, but also takes an introspective look into human fragility and the validity of the human experience that does not necessarily emanate in the eyes of the girl sitting at the bus stop.

Wall chose these particular plays as she was drawn to their unfinished endings: "They walk a line between how they could end, leaving you in uncertainty," she said. The political climate of today's world is one that Wall believes calls for a play that is both politically and racially charged in a way that did not undermine the human experience. When casting these plays, Wall wanted to ensure that the actors had the potential to "take initiative and make bold choices, and that they are not afraid to have those challenging political conversations."

These pieces, though capable of moving audience members to tears, are not merely a catalyst for emotional introspection, but for a greater awakening. Wall explains that her co-director Asherde Gill '20 posed a vital question to the cast members: "Who do you want to shake up? Who do you want to wake up?" These actors most definitely did not fall short of the task at hand. With only a few weeks in rehearsals before they went into tech week, the cast members plunged into their roles with such potent questions in mind that the deep thought was evident in the way they wholeheartedly embodied their roles.

The image of Michael Poyntz '18, who plays the talk-show host, cowering in the corner facing the threats of his own imagination and the danger he realizes he poses to societal sanity, is a haunting one which will not soon be forgotten. Despite all that is at stake in the intensity of the plays, they are not lacking in comic relief. The eccentric behavior of John as he attempts to coerce Alejandra into spending a moment of her time with him in *187* is full of comments that are so irritating that it is impossible for the audience not to have a good laugh. Wall thought it very important when addressing such a lofty topic to not forget the fun implicit in the experience of working on a production, and, though no small task, ensured that her cast was able to bond and express themselves while raising the questions that will leave the audience working on their own answers.

This is Wall's first full-scale production and she could not have done these plays more justice — through her ability to, as she puts it, "build a world on stage," she brings to campus issues that question love, loyalty and the pursuit of true liberty in a contemporary society. This play is absolutely a must-see.

All photos: Arielle Waxman/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Innumerable infinities: New Visions 1's *In Finite Potential*

By Ethan Forrer
Arts & Culture Writer

You can't always achieve your dreams. It's not a concept people like to mention publicly, especially at a college. We're in a time where popular media is filled with "coming of age" optimistic stories that reaffirm the relevance and possibilities that we as individuals assume to have. Now while this may be a needlessly dark and meta view on society, it's still an argument that we should at least understand, especially when we find ourselves facing a harsh reality.

Life isn't necessarily clear cut, black or white, or good or bad; sometimes the right answer simply doesn't exist. Even from the title itself to the very ending of the production, *In Finite Potential* expresses the cruelties and ambiguity that exist in life. *In Finite Potential*, written by Esther Kruman '18 and directed by Peri Ganbarg '18, dives into the surreal mind of a poor woman grieving after losing something so precious to her that she had been willing to sacrifice her previous happiness because she believed in its future (no spoilers though). *In Finite Potential* offers a brief window of time showing us the emotionally electrifying climactic confrontation between Cassandra, played by Carrie Dickson '18, and Dulcinea, played by Laura Diorio '20, who were once friends but over the past several years have spiraled into a complex and antagonistic relationship. The play is just a scene with two people simply being human at each other when both are in positions that they never expected to be in and that they don't yet fully understand.

I was given the rare opportunity to watch one of the last rehearsals of *In Finite Potential* before the madness of tech-week with three other performances set in. There, I was able to witness the grueling emotional struggles of the characters and the equally grueling struggles of the two actors and their director as they all attempt to discover the world of this play. The unusual mix of hyper-realism in a near fantastically complex situation starts to test the limits of what can actually be done while still maintaining Stanislavski's "art of experience" method for acting.

In fact, about halfway through the rehearsal, I experienced one of the most entertaining renditions of Meisner's environmental reaction technique where the only thing keeping me from laughing out loud was the amount of believability that went into every word shouted and every chair thrown. For those of you out there who don't really know about Stanislavski and Meisner, like me, just know that doing their work makes for some very professional theater (although I don't think they're actually getting paid for this).

It's no secret that theater here at Muhlenberg is very competitive and held to a certain level of prestige; Princeton says we're number one at it after all. Either way, it seems like being in a mainstage production here can become a symbol for some sort of chosen few who stand above everyone else. The connotations around mainstage productions have become elitist to a certain extent - one member of the cast expressed her concern about seeming arrogant if she mentioned being in a mainstage.

Issues with the less tangible parts of our college aside, watching the rehearsal for *In Finite Potential* made it very clear that Ganbarg (director), Dickson (Cassandra) and Diorio (Dulcinea) were there for a reason and they more than deserve their mainstage distinction. Just as Cassandra and Dulcinea had shared an unlikely friendship, both Dickson and Diorio have surprising backgrounds for their roles in this play. Dickson, with her labyrinth of emotional complexities, has spent most of her college career in the circus, in musicals, or dancing. Diorio, with her mature disposition and seemingly enigmatic desires, has just started her second year here. My point is that when two actors (such as Dickson and Diorio) merge to a point of almost singularity, a whole other level to theater is exposed for the actors to illuminate and the audience to interpret.

When you put together all these elements of Kruman's brilliant writing, Ganbarg's meticulous directing and Dickson and Diorio's beautiful relationship, you get what I believe to be a play that truly has "Infinite Potential."

Shaping the future: Troubling Truth with *1984*

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

What is truth? What are lies? What can be observed, and to what extent? What happens when the mind is cracked open and splayed out on a stage in a pool of wandering thoughts, subject to anyone and everyone's analysis and merging with their experiences?

As a shaggy-haired man in a white button-up writes and promptly scratches out an uncertain date, a drop of blood falls from his nose and onto a diary. With an ear-splitting screech and a blast of white light followed by complete darkness, he is suddenly no longer alone – the room is filled with people, sitting comfortably and talking as though nothing more peculiar had happened than a sneeze.

When the man voices his confusion, so do we, in our peculiar language of whispers and furrowed brows. After all, this is no hypothetical, no passive scene that we can only stand by and watch. This is happening right in front of our eyes; we could go up and touch it. What was once not there is there. We accept what does not make sense. Who we are is not only ourselves, but also this man – Winston Smith, a foreign consciousness that we must squeeze uncomfortably into for an hour and forty minutes of terrifying genius.

This is *1984.*

The 2017-2018 Center for Ethics theme is Troubling Truth. This theme invites us to question the manner in which we have always thought about facts and the idea of objectivity in a world that seems increasingly difficult to comprehend. Though I attended the play *1984* with the Dana Scholar first-year seminars, one of which centers around George Orwell (the original book's author), I could not help but connect the show to this central idea of doubt and questioning, of looking up and away and in every direction at once.

In the world of the play, almost nothing is certain. The price of chocolate is raised to twenty grams each day, an event that no one but Winston seems to realize has already happened. This scene is re-staged three times, each time losing something – a few words are dropped, small objects are absent and, the last time, one character is missing, though the impact of his presence is still felt.

The play is peppered with surreal moments like this, in which a seemingly unbendable set becomes a thousand realities at once, switching from an office to a train station to the headquarters of the resistance movement with only a change in lighting or sound effects. It should be noted that the audience is not exempt from the jarring shockwaves of these sudden changes – though the violence shown on stage is, at times, gruesome, there is a kind of violence enacted upon the audience itself in the thrum of the bass that shakes the balcony and the flashes of white that make us close our eyes.

As the first-year seminars discussed, there is an undeniable collapse of the divide that the stage usually creates between actors and viewers. We are both Winston and, by the use of several cameras through which we sometimes view the action, Big Brother, the mysterious controller of *1984*'s dystopian society. How do we know who we are? Well, throughout the play, all Winston – and, by extension, the audience – has to do to locate himself is answer one question: Where do you think you are?

This concept of location in a bendable reality is highly prominent in the upcoming Troubling Truth talks. Questions of identity and proximity to issues, moving forward in the current political climate, and adapting narratives of the past to modern standards will take center stage throughout the semester. Speakers like Black Lives Matter Canada co-founder Janaya Khan, transgender activist Susan Stryker and religion professor and author Stephen Prothero are set to provide important insight into the ways that we have the power to individually shape our reality.

Though the truth might not be changeable with the flick of a light switch, the truth as we understand it now might still have a chance at illumination. With the tools provided by these speakers and hundreds of other exploratory sources, including the horrors and warnings put forth by *1984*, the truth of the future might even be bright.

Fall Harvest BBQ

OCTOBER 4 ~ 11:30AM - 2:00PM
~PARENTS PLAZA~

Cider Glazed Pulled Pork | IPA Rubbed Chicken
Portobello & Goat Cheese Burger
House made Potato Chips | House made Pickles
Butternut Squash & Sweet Potato Soup
Pumpkin Cheesecake | Apple Cider Donuts

dining dollars, berg bucks, cash, credit will be accepted

EnAcT Farmers Market brings local cuisine to the college green

By Ellen Powers
Arts & Culture Writer

Muhlenberg students and community members alike came out to Muhlenberg's college green this past Friday to attend the Pop Up Farmers Market. This event takes place once each semester and is presented by EnAcT, the Muhlenberg Environmental Action Team and sponsored by Muhlenberg College's dining services. During the event, Muhlenberg students and members of the community can come to campus to enjoy a wide variety of foods being sold by local vendors.

At this semester's Pop Up Farmers Market, the vendors included Bleiler's Produce Patch from Breinigsville, Pennsylvania, which sold an array of vegetables ranging from corn to beets to peppers, and Ridge Valley Farm, located in Sumneytown, Pennsylvania, featuring maple-related products such as maple syrup and maple-flavored cotton candy. Macungie Mountain Farm from Macungie, Pennsylvania, which sold herbal teas and freshly squeezed lemonades, was also featured, as well as Schocharie Ridge Apiary and Orchard, located in New Tripoli, Pennsylvania, which sold apples and honey.

Other highlights from the farmers market were EnAcT's table, in which they sold apples and honey for Rosh Hashanah, "The Popcorn Pit," which sold kettle corn, as well as a truck from OMG Smoothies. This smoothie company is from Bally, Pennsylvania, and it uses real fruit in each of its smoothies. Furthermore, the company has recently gained more acclaim in the Lehigh Valley, appearing on the Lehigh Valley's "Happening List" in 2016 and 2017. Additionally, it has been certified healthy by The Food Trust and the Healthy Food Truck Initiative for the last two years in a row.

The Pop Up Farmers Market began two years ago, when current EnAcT president and sustainability intern for Muhlenberg College's dining hall Natalie Warhit '19 was a freshman at the college. According to Warhit, during her freshman year, she and other members of EnAcT realized that "many vendors in the Allentown Farmers Market were not actually local, so they decided to create this farmers market on campus once a semester to bring in local farmers." Now a junior, Warhit, along with the other members of EnAct, has continued to plan this farmers market.

Later in her interview, Warhit explained the process that goes into selecting the local farmers for each semester's Pop Up Farmers Market. She explained that over the last two years, EnAct has developed a group that is "pretty consistent and comes every year." However, through efforts to expand the farmers market and the items that are being sold, Warhit described how EnAct has a "list of farms that they are always trying to build on."

She expounded on this idea by explaining that the farms are split up between the different members of EnAct, and these members proceed to contact the different farms, as well as "get a list of produce so [they] have a diverse [number] of products" at each semester's farmers market.

EnAcT's Pop Up Farmers Market this past Friday was a great success, incorporating both Muhlenberg students and members of the local community in the event. Taking the market's growth and the plans of Warhit and the rest of EnAcT into account, it seems as though there will be more outstanding farmers markets in the future.

BLEILER'S PRODUCE PATCH

Ridge Valley Farm
Sumneytown, Pa 215-234-9334
PURE MAPLE SYRUP
STOP
THIRSTy?
Fresh-Squeezed
Lemonade
Herbal Tea
Infusions

BLEILER'S PRODUCE PATCH

Now in its third year, the EnAcT Farmers Market expanded to include a wider variety of produce and an opportunity for students to interact with local businesses.
All photos:
Cole Geissler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

KOMBUCHA
LEHIGH
VALLEY

Mules dominant defense faces week 4 hiccup

By Josh Lederman
Sports Writer

In their first three games of the season, the Muhlenberg Football team's defense allowed only twelve points per game. With eight returning starters that played on a unit that topped the Centennial Conference in scoring defense and held opponents to only just under eighteen points per game a season ago, it is no surprise that this year's squad started the season off strong.

Interim Defensive Coordinator Kory David has praised the play of defensive end Travis Crawford '18, linebacker Jake Morra '18 and cornerback Nate Corvil '19, stating that they "have all been playmakers for us this season." Crawford brings leadership and experience to the defense, while Morra is tied for fifth in the Centennial Conference with eight and a half tackles per game (as of Sept 25th) after missing last season due to suffering a season-ending injury in the first game and Corvil has already tallied four interceptions this year, one less than his total last year.

David also commended the growth of two upperclassmen this season. "Amir Blair '18 has stepped up his play this season along with inside linebacker Jack Fitzsimmons '19, who had to battle an early season shoulder injury but has stepped up his play and has been a solid performer for the past two weeks."

The unit has shown many important strengths which has propelled them to play competitively against each of their opponents. David notes, "We have a lot of speed and athleticism which helps us create opportunities for takeaways, get to the quarterback, and track a ball carrier down."

However, the unit has been hampered by injuries most notably to linebacker Mickey Kober '20 and cornerback George DiFiore '18, both of whom are returning starters and key contributors to the defense.

David exclaims that the injuries have "affected our depth and guys' ability to practice, but we are working hard to keep improving."

Just this past Saturday, the Mules played their fourth game of the season against Centennial Conference foe Juniata. After allowing a touchdown just over a minute into the game, the Mules defense got their act together and came up with several big plays on defense, which included forcing three turnovers. On Juniata's second possession, Fitzsimmons sacked quarterback Austin Montgomery and forced a fumble that was recovered by nose tackle Frank Cresta '20, which led to a Ryan Curtiss '20 touchdown four minutes later. At the beginning of the second quarter Daymon Fleming '21 picked off Montgomery to record his first career interception. After the Mules turned it over in the redzone, Nate Corvil recorded his fourth interception of the year to give the Mules a short field to work with, leading to the Mules' third touchdown of the half.

Juniata failed to find the end zone again in the half and the Mules went into the locker room at halftime with a commanding 28-7 lead. It looked like the defense would continue to have another successful game and would be able to keep Juniata from putting up a lot of points, despite a few key injuries.

In the second half, the tides shifted on defense as Juniata to made the game more competitive. The Eagles scored thirty-three points in the second-half, including four touchdowns by Montgomery. The Mules failed to force a turnover, gave up many deep pass plays and recorded very few tackles for losses.

Although the Mules won the game 56-40, David reflected on why the defense did not play as well as they had through the first three and a half games. "As a unit we lost focus, we have played well because we have leaned on each other with a put the ball down attitude. We have to keep driving forward to develop that four quarter mentality no matter what the score is."

This coming Saturday, the Mules travel to Franklin & Marshall, the Centennial Conference's leader in points per game. The Diplomats have a strong passing game that is led by quarterback Tanner Erisman and wide receivers K.J. Pretty and Dillon Alderfer.

As the Mules' defense prepares for their road test against the Diplomats, David is emphasizing the team's one week at a time mentality and is not trying to make major adjustments for the defense.

"Honestly, it's a one week at a time mentality. We talk about going 1-0 and not looking ahead, but we will continue to work hard at the little things this week for F&M from our techniques & assignments which will lead to big plays (i.e. Sacks & Takeaways) and allow us to play fast."

The Mules hope to continue to build on their superb season with another victory with another stellar offensive performance and a more typical poised Muhlenberg defense with a regained focus.

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from Injuries
page 12

roles on the field," said the senior midfielder.

Makenzie O'Brien '19, who was injured for much of September, echoed similar sentiments to those of her teammate.

"Other than the positional changes there really has not been a change of plans on our team. We are still trying to incorporate different players in the final third of the field when we are trying to score such as our outside backs, our center mid fielders and sometimes our center backs. Our overall goal as a team is to be as big of an offensive threat as possible," said O'Brien.

Although players such as O'Brien have spent much of this season on the sideline, they still have managed to make their presence felt from off the field. O'Brien specifically has talked to some of the younger players that have suddenly been given an increased amount of playing time.

"I specifically have tried to encourage Sarah Hunter because she was playing my position (outside back) for the majority of the time that I was out with my sprained ankle. I have encouraged her to be an offensive threat by making runs up the side lines while our forwards and center mid fielders have the ball. I have told her to just be patient when defending an opposing player and to not jump into a tackle and let the girl just dribble around her. Lastly, I have told her that I believe in her and that if she works hard enough she can make a huge impact on the field from the position," said O'Brien.

Clearly this is a team that has gone through many changes in personnel in such a short span of time. But these unfortunate circumstances have not been detrimental to the demeanor of this strong-willed team. Danni Steigerwald '20, who has played through this season without falling victim to the injury bug, has also witnessed the impact of her teammates while they've been off the playing field.

"I would say that our game plan is still the same, and that our mindset is still to come out against each team and play hard."

"Although Danni, Casarah, and Makenzie have not been on the field with us for the past few games, they still contribute to our team off the field, giving direction to the players who have stepped up into their positions. This has enabled us to hold our own against tough conference opponents, including Franklin and Marshall," said Steigerwald.

Arielle Waxman/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Goalie Libby Juliano '20 (#00) punts after making a save in this weekends Centennial Conference contest.

This past weekend, the Mules played to a 1-1 tie against Dickinson College. Although the team was unable to earn a victory, the game was significant for those injured players returning to the lineup once again. Steigerwald was very happy with how the team played in this contest.

"I was actually able to play in this game and the best thing I can say we did was not give up. We battled our hearts out for 110 minutes. Regardless of the outcome, it's great to see everyone wanting to win," said the sophomore forward.

In O'Brien's first match back as well, she was very proud with her team played against a competitive Dickinson roster.

"I thought we finally were an offensive threat and we were not just playing defense for the entire game. Izzy Schwartz played her best game all season and did an amazing job capitalizing on a foul that I drew on Dickinson's defense. By finally creating a significant amount of shots (eight) by our offense, I think it gave our defense a break at times which was great because in many of our previous games they were exhausted from constantly defending. In order for us to continue to compete with teams in our conference in the future we are going to need to step up on offense and create goal scoring opportunities," said O'Brien.

The Mules women's soccer team continues its season next week when it takes on Bryn Mawr at Varsity Field in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Corey In The House

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Corey Mullins ‘19, receives the 2017 Weikert Award during halftime of the Mules alumni weekend football game from President John Williams.

Few could have imagined what Corey Mullins ‘19 would be capable of when he began his running career in eighth grade with a local track club in Danbury, Conn. He credits the start-up program with coaches that “weren’t the best” for establishing the foundation for his running. It made him realize how much he loved racing, a love that brought him to where he is now — a record setter, a gold medalist and an All-America honoree.

Mullins has been a standout on the cross country team since he arrived at Muhlenberg in 2015. As a freshman, he was the Mules’ number two runner and finished in the top 20 of the first five meets in his collegiate career. He was the second freshman, and 18th overall, to cross the finish line in his first Centennial Conference Championships, and seventh among freshmen at the NCAA Mideast Regional.

In 2016, Mullins was somehow faster and more competitive than the year before. He placed within the top 15 in five of seven meets, with three finishes in the top five: 3rd at the Moravian Invitational, 4th at the DeSales Invitational and 5th at the Lehigh Invitational. At the NCAA Mideast Regionals, he placed 11th, moving 33 places from the year before. To top off a sensational sophomore season, Mullins qualified for the NCAA championships — only the fourth male runner in Muhlenberg history to qualify as a sophomore.

While he may be recognized for his achievements during the fall, Mullins spends his winter and spring seasons with the track and field team. He’s a star there too. Mullins ran as a member of the distance medley relay team that not only won the gold medal at the Centennial Conference Championships in a meet-record time of 10:03.21 but also earned All-America honors by finishing seventh at the NCAA Championships in indoor track.

Being an All-America honoree earned Mullins the Sidney G. Weikert Sophomore Athlete of the Year Award, an award that recognized athletic prowess, campus contribution and a strong academic record.

“I was shocked that the school had chosen me to receive the Weikert Award this year, something that I’ve been told is rare for a cross country or track and field athlete. The fact that cross country is more an individual sport has something to do with that, as it’s harder to be a clear benefit of the team and program than say a football quarterback, such as Nick Palladino,” said Mullins. “With that said, it was a great honor to receive that award. I have to admit I’m very lucky to have the talent in running that I do, but the main purpose of the Weikert Award is to show the benefits of hard work and determination, no matter where it’s coming from, in or out of practice. Hopefully I inspired that in others, no matter which sport they play.”

“I have to admit I’m very lucky to have the talent in running that I do”

Before the end of his sophomore year, Mullins had already cemented himself in Muhlenberg record books. According to Muhlenberg Athletics, on the school’s all-time performance lists, he ranks in the top ten of six indoor and outdoor events: seventh in the 800, sixth in the 1000, eighth in the mile, sixth in the 3000, fifth in the 1500 and second in the 5000.

Just a couple meets into the cross country season, Mullins already seems to be strides ahead of last season’s performances. Weeks before he accepted the Weikert Award at halftime of the homecoming football game, Mullins finish first among non-Division I runners and 10th overall, proving once again he can hold his own against top schools in any division. He has a more humble view of his success, however.

“I generally try to ignore the teams and divisions of people I’m running against, as it can get in your head too much when you’re racing,” said Mullins. “With that in mind, it’s a lot of fun to know that I can beat D1 runners, while also getting beaten by D3 runners just in our conference; any cross country athlete is still their own individual athlete, racing the same course, and it doesn’t matter what school they have on their singlet.”

His humble mindset extends further than just beating D1 teams or earning All-America honors. The captain of the men’s cross country team, Mullins credits his teammates for a majority of his success, claiming there’s no way he’d be where he’s at today without them. He speaks highly of Jaryd Flank ‘17, a former cross country and track & field athlete who holds three school records, was a three time qualifier for the NCAA cross country meet and became Muhlenberg’s first cross country All-American. Mullins says training with him was an honor and hopes he can build on Flank’s success.

Making and breaking records of his own should be no problem for Mullins, who was already named Centennial Conference men’s cross country athlete of the week. With two years of record-setting running behind him and just under two years to go, Mullins shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon.

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from Shelters
page 12

to the game field, it reminds every one of the support the school has for our program and our ambitions of constantly improving.”

Support. That is the real story behind the Kwik Goal shelters.

And with the support Chmura talks about, the idea of a shelter upgrade became proposal and the proposal came alive. But reaching the looming fundraising goal in the mid $50,000 range is not easy for any program to accomplish, nonetheless a sports program at a small private institution.

To create a successful strategy for fundraising, Topping noted the importance of informing potential donors of the specific upgrades the program wanted to achieve, in this case the shelters. “People want to know what their money is going towards,” said Topping. With this formula in mind the Mules found a helping hand.

Not all of the details are known about the shelters’ trip to Varsity Field, but Topping talked about someone stepping up to the plate, or in this case, the penalty mark. We don’t know who that someone is. We may never know who that someone is. As of now what we do know is that the project started moving forward after one particular “anonymous matching gift,” said Topping.

After the undisclosed donation is when the Mules soccer program sought to accomplish the challenge to match. The annual athletic fundraising event, Mule Madness, presented itself as the perfect opportunity. “We had an anonymous donor give a significant gift towards the soccer shelters, which was a very specific need of the soccer programs. Through Mule Madness and some conversations with other alumni we are working toward matching that donation. Mule Madness is a way to supplement and support that initiative,” said Leading Gift Officer at Muhlenberg College, Kim Stolarik. Mule Madness turned out being the great spark to matching the anonymous donor. “We still have a little ways to go (for funding the shelters), but anything the soccer programs are doing, both men’s and women’s, goes towards helping support them,” Stolarik added.

The “little ways” the soccer programs have to turn their matching challenge into an accomplishment comes with much appreciation and many thanks. Topping called fundraising efforts by all parties “greatly important.” He added, “our operational budget only goes so far.” Chmura had a similar opinion. “Our facilities and fields are some of the top in the conference. A lot of work goes in every to ensure the field is in mint condition.”

The story behind the shelters seem to be as interesting as they appear on the sidelines, but there is no doubt that this team effort by Muhlenberg’s soccer programs gets them one step closer to them having the field of their dreams.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

SPORTS

Thursday, September 28, 2017

Mystery helping hand aids enhancement of Varsity Field

Arielle Waxman/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Varsity Field upgrades sidelines with new Kwik Goal team shelters for soccer programs.

By Matt Riebesell
Co-Sports Editor

Every athlete wants the perfect place to play the game they love. It is a fantasy for student athletes at schools all over the country to be able to compete in their sport with the most up to date playing surface and facilities. At Muhlenberg, two programs were able to acquire facility upgrades that make their home field more outstanding than before.

This past Saturday, Sept. 23, Muhlenberg's women's and men's soccer teams, respectively, got to show off their own new additions to their home pitch, Varsity Field. The unveiling of the recent enhancements took place during their day-night double header against Centennial Conference rivals Dickinson and Swarthmore.

The improvements were four Kwik Goal team shelters. The structures, which take the place of ordinary silver metal benches, made their debut on the east sideline, with two on each team's half of the field.

According to the Kwik Goal website, the shelters stand about seven feet tall and are walled with lightly tinted polycarbonate glass. Under its curved top there are individual luxury cushioned seats for players who are not in the game, and coaches to watch from.

Though luxurious, the shelters have hefty price, but also a story. First, the price and the shelters' utility. Although the exact total is not accessible from sources, the Kwik Goal shelter's list price on the Kwik Goal website ranges from $13,300 to $14,000. Multiply that by four shelters along the sidelines of Varsity Field and the bill could potentially land anywhere in the $52,000 - $56,000 range.

But even at a steep penny, it is unfair to judge the shelters solely based on price. The program had actually been looking to upgrade Varsity Field in some capacity. "The game field needed a little face lift," said Sean Topping, the men's soccer team's head coach, "these shelters give the facility a professional type of look." Also, the shelters are barriers from the rain and cold, which can help players warm up quicker, reducing the chance of injury for players going in the game as substitutions. Coach Topping also described a more "enclosed" atmosphere, promoting more of a stadium atmosphere where the eyes of spectators will no longer drift and view the spacious practice soccer field in the background. "The Centennial Conference has a lot of great soccer facilities," Topping said. "We also have a fantastic upgraded facility. Think about that atmosphere on the corner of campus for a night game."

Co-captain defender, Jan Chmura '18 was on the same page as his head coach. "Besides providing benefits of comfort and protection from harsh weather the shelters add professionalism as well as aesthetics to the facilities," said Chmura. "The team loves the additions

see **Shelters** | page 11

Injuries are no match for women's soccer

By Alex Horowitz
Co-Sports Editor

Playing college athletics is no easy task. No matter the sport, every team requires almost year-round practice, leading up to the highly anticipated games. Because of the consistent nature of sports, injuries are quite common and almost inevitable- whether it is on the field, turf, court, or rink. When these injuries befall a team's star players, it can often be difficult for a team to maintain its winning ways. Sometimes though, the team has just enough players that fill unexpected roles and can carry the team through adversity. That is exactly what has happened with the Muhlenberg Mules women's soccer team this fall.

To date, the Mules have started the 2017 season with a 2-4-2 record. Not exactly spectacular on paper, but very impressive when considering what the team has dealt with in less than a month of regular season play. Star players Makenzie O'Brien '19, Danni Steigerwald '20 and Casarah Morales '20 have all missed chunks of playing time this month due to a range of injuries.

Because each of these student-athletes has proven to be exceptional for the Mules women's soccer team, the team had to slightly change its game plan with new players taking the field. Despite this minor setback, the team still was able to keep its positive mindset, said Carly DeNigris '18.

"Due to the injuries to some of our starting players, it has been an adjustment for our team. I would say that our game plan is still the same, and that our mindset is still to come out against each team and play hard. With the injuries, some players have been shifted into new positions, but I think as a team we have been able to adjust to this as a whole and really support each other in our new

see **Injuries** | page 11

Arielle Waxman/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Danni Steigerwald '20, recieves a pass during in one of her first games back from a knee injury.

Football

VS

Sat. Sept. 30 at 1:00 p.m.
@ Lancaster, PA

Volleyball

Roadrunner Invitational

Fri. Sept. 29 at 6:00
Sat. Sept. 30 at 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 pm
@ Mahwah, NJ

Cross Country

Dickinson Long-Short Invitational

Sat. Sept. 30.
Men at 10:30 a.m.,
Women at 11:15 a.m.
@Newville, PA

Men's Soccer

VS

Sat. Sept. 30 at 1:00 pm
@ Baltimore, MD

Men's Golf

Muhlenberg Invitational

Mon. Oct. 2 at 12:30
Lehigh Country Club

Field Hockey

VS

Wed. Oct. 4 at 7:30 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

Women's Soccer

VS

Wed. Oct. 4 at 7:00 pm
Varsity Field

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community Since 1883

The Muhlenberg Weekly

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017 VOLUME CXL, ISSUE 4

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The Disruption of Truth:

Janaya Khan on social transformation, justice and equality

IAN ADLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

BY ALYSSA HERTEL
MANAGING EDITOR

On Monday evening, in the wake of the deadly mass shooting in Las Vegas and President Donald Trump's opposition to the actions of National Football League players, Janaya Khan presented a talk entitled "Black Lives Matter: Demanding Social Transformation, Justice & Equality." Khan was popular among students, faculty, staff and alumni, who packed so tightly into Miller Forum that overflow chairs were plucked from the surrounding classrooms and remaining attendees resorted to standing on the perimeter or sitting on the floor.

Khan is the co-founder of Black Lives Matter Canada, quickly becoming a strong voice in the internationally recognized campaign. According to Khan's website, they are "a Black, queer, gender-nonconforming activist, staunch Afrofuturist, boxer and social justice educator."

But the talk, which was part of the Center for Ethics series "Troubling Truth," was about more than just the Black Lives

SEE **JANAYA** | PAGE 5

No charge digital streaming

Philo rolls out to students, giving on-the-go television streaming and recording capabilities to network users

BY IAN ADLER
NEWS EDITOR

Close your eyes and imagine a world in which the notorious coaxial cable is rendered useless on campus; now open your eyes. Thanks to the help of OIT, led by Chief Information Officer Allan Chen, as well as the Office of Residential Services, that world is beginning to become a reality.

On Sept. 28, Chen announced via email the official launch of Philo, a network-based television service that is now free and available for use by all students. Philo essentially offers a basic cable package, similar to the one currently available to students, but on every viewing medium – this includes laptops, iOS and Android powered phones as well as devices that can use Roku software.

"I first heard about this about a year and a half ago," said Chen. "They just came to us and talked about it and we just really felt that it was a good opportunity to provide a significant extra value to the students, from our traditional TV service."

While Philo's capabilities aren't exactly comparable to services like Netflix or Hulu, it does give students the ability to DVR up to 20 hours of content and access a good range of channels. Kate Shelley, Associate Director of Housing Services, touched on this as a primary motivation to commit to Philo.

"This is something that we've looked at over the years," said Shelley. "We've had requests from students over the years for something with streaming or DVR capabilities, so the fact that this had both was really helpful."

A basic cable package, in addition to a rotation of supplemental channels, are available for anyone on the network to view. This includes shows like "Law & Order SVU," "SpongeBob SquarePants," "Saturday Night Live" and many others.

Both Shelley and Chen commented on the simplicity and ease of use, as well as its practicality for future changes to the market.

"It seemed like it had a bit of a smarter design. It had a flexibility with the different providers that we have for programming, so it works with Service Electric which is our cable company today, it can work with DirecTV and RCN," said Chen. "I felt that we could roll it out, students could just figure it out and we wouldn't have to go in and take a lot of support calls and people from the Office of Residential Services felt the same way."

Mary Baumel '20 felt that the user interface was simple and easy to use. "I wanted to watch CNN live for coverage of the Las Vegas shooting and fig-

SEE **PHILO** | PAGE 5

Editorial

Change starts at home

'Berg's leadership in times of crisis

Late Sunday evening in Las Vegas, Nev. 64-year-old Stephen Paddock smashed the window of his hotel suite with a hammer and opened fire on the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival from his room on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel. The "gunshots lasted for 10 to 15 minutes" according to witnesses, killing, at the time of production, 59 people and injuring 527 more. Las Vegas police said officers found Paddock dead upon arrival and authorities believe he committed suicide.

On June 12, 2016, a shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Fla., where 50 individuals lost their lives, became the deadliest mass shooting in United States history since colonial atrocities. With a continuously rising death toll, the Las Vegas attack has now claimed that title. In a little over a year, two shootings have killed 109 people — a number that surpasses the death tolls of the Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, San Bernardino and Fort Hood shootings combined. Closer to home, this past Tuesday, two Allentown residents were killed in what WFMZ called a "hail of gunfire" at the intersection of Fourth and Washington streets.

So where do we go from here? Should we argue for stronger gun laws and restrictions? Currently, investigators in the Vegas shooting believe that the firearms were purchased legally, several in California. Should we read this as an organized act of terror? Paddock was a white man whose brother claims did not have affiliations with any larger terrorist or hate group. With details still emerging, it is difficult to understand the motivation behind such a heinous act of violence.

With Las Vegas becoming the latest devastating loss of life to strike the United States since Aug. 25 — Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria claimed hundreds more — now is the time for the country, and the Muhlenberg community, to come together.

With hate-filled incidents like this shooting occurring with terrible frequency, a campus-wide conversation about those tragedies is important and necessary. While conversations surrounding these issues may be difficult to begin, President Williams and his senior staff, as the leaders of our college, have a responsibility to ensure that all students are made aware of the resources available to them on campus — regardless of the perceived direct or indirect impacts. To their credit, they have done just that.

Our president is our leader, and in that sense it is his job to model the current Muhlenberg values, and to make sure that students, faculty and staff follow in his lead. While it is easy to condemn every worldly tragedy through e-mail and suggest proper outlets for healing, taking steps to improve the happenings in this world — even those within the Muhlenbubble — is an entirely different matter. So it follows that communicating with the community solely through an email may not always be sufficient. Students, and all members of the College community, not only want more from our leaders, but deserve it.

We need more events like the teach-in held last February in reaction to this past election. We need events like the Town Hall held two years ago, and the corresponding Town Hall reactions and equity meeting. We need conversations and dialogues, not just e-mails or office hours.

But that burden does not fall solely on our President. Children in preschool are practicing active shooter drills, and yet the Muhlenberg student body cannot seem to have an open and honest, face-to-face conversation. When we live in an age constantly in fear that the next concert, shopping trip, movie or day at school may be our last — where more people died at the hands of senseless violence in an evening than there are weeks in a year — virtual condolences and hashtagged support do not cut it. We can't expect the outside world to change if we, ourselves, cannot make this change within the bounds of our campus. Change starts at home.

From the Editorial Board of
The Muhlenberg Weekly

The activism in listening to others

By Taylor Garrison
Op/Ed Writer

Sometimes, you have to learn a lesson the hard way. For me, the hard way was breaking my toe in my dorm room a few weeks ago. After x-rays and many trips to the health center here on campus, I was ready to step back into the world. All I had to do was some taping, elevating and iceing it for a few times a day; I also had to avoid the stairs for a week or so. As an able-bodied person, I did not realize how these simple tasks would shake up my daily commutes.

First off, I had no idea where most of the elevators were! Thankfully, Muhlenberg has a campus accessibility page that lists all of them as well as other accessibility issues for each building. As I was checking this list to find the Ettinger elevator, I noticed some buildings on campus are not accessible at all. Last year I lived in Brown, one of those inaccessible buildings. I couldn't help thinking about how hard it would have been if I still lived there.

Then, I realized my thinking was a bit short-sighted. Sure, I was injured then, but I would be better in a month or two. Why hadn't I realized there were places I went to on campus every day that not every person could? The reason is simple; I wasn't actively trying to notice or listen. As an able-bodied person, I could easily walk past the "out of order" sign on the elevator which led to my favorite dining hall table or to my professor's office.

This is not a congratulatory article about me realizing my own ignorance and patting myself on the back. This is a callout of my ignorance and a pledge to actively try to listen. I urge everyone else to look at their own ignorance. It is not beneficial for me as someone with an injury, and a minor one at that, to wax poetic about something I do not regularly deal with. What is beneficial then? Listening to others! Not only are there nationally known activists, but also members of the Muhlenberg community and the world at large who have been saying college campuses need to be more accessible for students, faculty and professors with a wide range of disabilities.

Yale Daily News reported on the story of Christina Kim, who on her first day of math class realized she "could not get to her classroom — the building is not wheelchair accessible." Some of the classroom buildings that are marked as accessible are "'not accessible from the outside … the underground routes are helpful, but sometimes when I'm limited for time, like between classes, it's hard to quickly go outside and get out of the building.'" Helen Okobokekeimei, a contributor to the Huffington Post, writes that "college administrators and officials, staff members, professors and non-disabled students should get real and accommodate students with disabilities with eagerness and empathy." It is important to elevate the voices of those who experience these accessibility issues.

By elevating others' voices, we can learn from those affected, instead of just assuming we know all there is about issues. While activism circles often express the importance of speaking up, sometimes the most important thing to do is listen.

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Push for gender equality in monster hunting?

Some men say it's gone too far

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Writer

The monster hunting community has been a beacon for great men bored with everyday life and who have faced tragedy, the likes of which cause them to have a great hate for all monster-kind, but now girls want to do it too? Gross! This begs some questions; should girls be allowed to hunt monsters? Can girls even hunt monsters? I needed to get to the bottom of this, so I talked to a bunch of men about it. I, as a journalist, will try to remain unbiased, even though whoever heard of a chick monster hunter? It doesn't make any sense, but either way, I will be unbiased in this. This question of girls in the monster hunting business began years ago when Van Helsing, the famed monster hunter, came out saying that monster hunting is not a job for girls. At the time, he faced some backlash, but in recent years he gained some followers in his beliefs, mostly from men who believe they are owed something from girls, because we are owed something from girls. Now many monster hunters are afraid of girls entering their work force, saying that the monster hunting world is one of the few places to really bro out, and no chicks allowed, but especially no fatties. Despite these facts, girls are still attempting to hunt monsters like that Dracula or the Boogieboy and even a Frankenstein or two.

But before we get into why girls are trying to hunt monsters, let's look into why they shouldn't be doing this, or, I guess, why they should or shouldn't be doing this. What benefits would girls bring to the monster hunting community? I can't think of any, so there aren't any because I'm a smart man, and if there were any I would have thought of them. I should probably point out that this is not the first case of girls being involved with the supernatural; no eyebrows are gonna raise if a girl is off looking for fairies or unicorns, but we are talking about girls hunting real monsters, like El Chupacabra.

What problems could come from this? For one, those girls would be stealing the kills from more competent men, men who actually have to try and don't just look pretty and get whatever they want. And even if the girls kill the monster it cannot be explained other than the monster's just trying to be nice and letting the girl kill him. And the girls probably wouldn't even show the monster any nudes even though the monster was being really nice and letting her kill him. This issue would be even worse if any girl tried to hunt a girl monster like a chick yeti, they'd probably just gab about fashion or nails. The truth is that there is no control over girls killing monster girls.

Girls just aren't strong enough, and because I'm actually concerned about their safety that means that I'm not sexist.

But the worst offense came when a girl monster hunter was almost hurt just after taking down a Moon Wolf. That one example of one girl getting close to hurt is proof that no girl ever has the capacity to kill any monsters. Girls just aren't strong enough, and because I'm actually concerned about their safety means that I'm not sexist. No one can say I'm sexist because I think girls should be treated like princesses and not people, chicks should totally get to do all the dumb girl stuff they want because they are too fragile to do anything important. My putting women on a pedestal and not treating them like humans, but like objects made to benefit me, is what makes me not sexist.

No one can say I'm sexist because I think girls should be treated like princesses and not people.

The world is becoming much more prejudiced against men; recently a monster hunter was killed by a Dracula almost immediately after saying that he thought the reason there weren't more girls hunting monsters is because they are biologically less capable of it. Although it cannot be confirmed, I'm pretty sure that Dracula only killed him because he was saying something not "politically correct," and in case it wasn't clear, those quotes are being used in a mocking manner. We can't even ask the Dracula if that's why he killed this monster hunter because right as the Dracula was about to turn the monster hunter, the Dracula let himself be killed by some chick! It has become so dangerous for men to say anything now a days, it has become a veritable witch hunt. And witch hunts used to be cool, when a bunch of men would get together and burn some chick who was probably a witch, back to the days when men didn't have to feel threatened by girls and other minorities gaining the rights and luxuries that men already had for a long time.

Honestly, I'd like it if chicks started killing monsters, I really would. The problem is that no girls are trying and the ones that are are being totally uncool about it. The reason that more girls aren't trying is because girls are predisposed to not want to kill monsters, and those who are trying are only doing it because they want to take away all the rights men have and they're probably lesbians.

If girls wanted to kill monsters without being all girly about it, I'd love it, but the truth is that girls don't want to, and not because of the thousands of ways that society tries to shape women into something they may not be from their birth and how throughout every woman's entire life they have to deal with so many things trying to suppress them as a person and trying to force them into what men think women should be and how women should think and act, and this is so intrinsic to our society at this point that it must be so difficult for women to figure out if they only like the things they like because society has told them to like those things their whole life. It has nothing to do with any of that, it's because girls are dumb.

To all the ladies reading this, hit me up on Facebook if you want to talk. Maybe we can get coffee, see where things go, and I'm also on Reddit because of course I am.

All hail the science nerds

By Emily Davidson
Op/Ed Editor

Last month, Muhlenberg found out that we dropped in the U.S. News & World Report college rankings. And because I am proud of our academic institution, the lowered rankings hit me fairly hard; I think Muhlenberg is better than what the ranking attributes us to be.

A particular feature of Muhlenberg I took pride in previously and invest more pride in as of lately is one of my fondest secret weapons at this school—our science departments. Within our science department resides the powerhouse of independent, student driven research.

I know how important this work is from my own first-hand experience.

One significant award just catalyzed a huge step in advancing a certain student-research-fueled biochemistry lab and its associated projects. Dr. Keri Colabroy, Associate Professor of Chemistry, was recently awarded a three-year grant from the prestigious Chemistry of Life Processes Program in the Chemistry Division of the National Science Foundation (NSF). Not only is this $294,000 grant an incredible resource for Dr. Colabroy and the growth of her career and research, it's a game-changer for the students currently involved in the lab and any future students who join the research.

"This NSF grant will advance the Colabroy Lab in so many ways," explained Katy Mayer 18', a senior biochemistry veteran in the Colabroy Lab. "The grant also allows Dr. Colabroy's research to be embedded into one of the core courses for the biochemistry major, and the students' independent projects will allow the project to continue on a larger scale and from different angles throughout the year"

In addition to expanding research opportunities within the biochemistry curriculum, Mayer was excited about the other immediate impacts the grant facilitated. "Because of this grant, Dr. Colabroy can accept more students into the lab and allow more students to stay for the summer," said Mayer. "Just a few weeks into the semester, we're already noticing that the lab is a bit livelier and excited about our work!"

I'm enthusiastic for the forthcoming research from the Colabroy Lab, and offer congratulations to the students who are fortunate to become directly involved in the research and the continued growth of student research at Muhlenberg.

I know how important this work is from my own first-hand experience in the lab. I can attest to how hands-on, fulfilling, and remarkable student research is. Beginning with my sophomore year, I enjoyed the opportunity to work directly with Dr. Marten Edwards, entomologist and professor of biology, and my peers, in a research project aimed at assessing the abundance of ticks and the prevalence of ticks infected with human-borne pathogens within the Lehigh Valley. If you're still reading this and haven't been scared away from the fact that I work with ticks (yes, we have to actually collect ticks in the field, crush them up and extract their DNA so we can test), I can tell you it's a thoroughly fulfilling project. We test ticks for the bacteria that cause Lyme Disease and three other rarer pathogens. I've been lucky enough to spend two summers here paid for by grants from Muhlenberg and support from the Lehigh Valley Health Network. My work allows me to inform scientists, local health care providers and residents of the Lehigh Valley about these ticks and the disease-causing agents they carry.

Research is significantly different from a normal classroom experience — quizzes and tests that focus on 'the right answer' are replaced with investigations and open-ended questions. There are no right answers, just a research process, the scientific method and a learning process. Machines break, results don't always make sense, human error happens (gasp!) and troubleshooting forces you to think on your feet and adapt to the unpredictable. My experiences have personally made me adaptable and generally more inquisitive in my classes.

Perhaps the most impactful moments in your college education are immeasurable. They may not help U.S. News & World Report college rankings, but if they exponentially help expand our future successes, isn't that more important?

Campus Safety Notes

Monday, September 25
Sick Student - 4:00 p.m.
In Trumbower Science Building, First Floor, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Injured Employee - 5:00 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an injured employee. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the individual was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Theft - 8:00 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Tuesday, September 26
Sick Student - 1:03 a.m.
In Brown Hall, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Sick Student - 1:07 a.m.
In Brown Hall, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Check the Welfare/Locate - 9:49 a.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report made to locate a student. Contact was made with the student, and there was no further incident.

Sick Student - 8:01 p.m.
In South Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS and Allentown EMS responded, and there was no further incident.

Wednesday, September 27
Fire Alarm Sounding - 12:39 p.m.
In East Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounded. It was triggered by a possible aerosol spray. The system was silenced and reset.

Lost Property - 9:50 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a lost longboard, which was later found.

Disabled Vehicle - 10:00 p.m.
In Trumbower Science Building, there was a report of a disabled vehicle.

Thursday, September 28
Found Property - 4:51 a.m.
In Moyer Hall, there was a report of a found wallet. The owner later claimed the item.

Found Property - 1:24 p.m.
In Moyer Hall, First Floor, there was a report of a found watch. It is unknown to whom the item belongs.

Drug Violation - 10:53 p.m.
In the Courts, there was a report of possession of drug paraphernalia. The individuals were identified, and the items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in the evidence locker.

Friday, September 29
Alcohol Violation - 12:15 a.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of an alcohol violation. The individual was identified and spoken to, then transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 5:17 p.m.
On 432 Albright Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from cooking. The system was silenced and reset.

Fire Safety Violation - 6:30 p.m.
In Robertson Hall, there was a report of a fire safety violation. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and there was no further incident.

Found Property - 7:35 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a found laptop. The owner was notified to retrieve the laptop at Campus Safety.

Disabled Vehicle - 9:50 p.m.
At the parking lot at 23rd and Gordon Street, there was a report of a disabled vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer successfully jump-started the vehicle.

Saturday, September 30
Sick Student - 2:14 a.m.
At Village 2 at 2263 Turner Street, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Assist Outside Agency - 6:08 a.m.
At N. 23rd Street, there was a report to assist the Allentown Police Department.

Lost Property - 6:53 a.m.
On campus, there was a report of a lost debit card, which was later found.

Sick Student - 11:00 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Student Health Services was notified, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Point of Information - 3:45 p.m.
In Brown Hall, there was a Point of Information report.

Sunday, October 1
Alcohol Violation - 1:26 a.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. The alcohol was disposed of by a Campus Safety Officer.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 12:16 p.m.
At 2251 Liberty Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding. Upon arrival, no cause for the alarm could be found. The system was silenced and reset.

The Weekly Staff wishes everyone a safe and happy weekend!

FROM **PHILO**
PAGE 1

uring out how to access that was pretty straightforward," said Baumel.

Philo offers a feature called MyTV, where users can view shows you've recently recorded, shows that are trending live and upcoming shows users might be interested in.

"My Television doesn't have any recording capability so that will probably be my primary use for Philo. It might increase how much I watch TV just because it's easier to record shows I wouldn't normally have the time to watch."

With the introduction of a new streaming service, anyone who relies on a WiFi connection would naturally feel a wave of concern. The thought of 'Not my WiFi, "Game of Thrones" is on!'crossing many students minds. However, one of Philo's most efficient features is its ability to not stream directly from the internet; instead, it relies on the campus network.

"This is the beauty of the system," said Chen. "It actually is on our network – you're not streaming over the internet. So there's the internet, which is the outside world, and then you have the internal campus network which is 100 times faster than the internet connection."

As Philo begins to grow as a business, it's catching the eye of IT personnel like Chen as it continues to build relationships with other media and entertainment companies, including HBO. HBO Go services could be available to students soon, depending on a potential campus-wide subscription to HBO.

While Muhlenberg is the first school in the Lehigh Valley to use Philo, Baumel touched on other friends that go to schools that offer similar services. Both her and Chen are optimistic about the usage of Philo on campus.

"I do believe we'll get pretty good usage out of the system and I think it will justify implementation," said Chen. "If it doesn't, I made sure to negotiate a fairly short contract that's long enough to see how successful it can be but it's not so long that we're locked in for say five or six years. If it doesn't work out, we will just discontinue it."

The contract, according to Chen, will last for the next three years. Most of the cost will come from the student technology fee, which is included in students' yearly bill.

While the service itself has yet to gain popularity, various paper advertisements in the dining hall and residence halls should do the trick of spreading the word, according to Shelley. Occasional emails and posts on social media will continue to remind students of the availability of the service.

In addition to Philo, Chen and OIT plan to soon upgrade their internet connectivity to a new service that will "have special connections to Netflix, Amazon and a couple other services, which will then improve our streaming on Netflix as well." Changes to technology on campus are continually marking our shift into the digital age – will we even need to attend lectures next year?

Don't watch tv in class.
(It's too difficult to follow the plot.)
watch Mr. Robot on USA Network
philo
Live tv + dvr on any device.
Text philo to 62687 to start watching for free.

IAN ADLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Starting next week, students can expect to see these flyers hung in napkin holders, in addition to other posters and flyers hung around residence and academic buildings.

FROM **JANAYA**
PAGE 1

Matter movement or queer politics. In just under two hours, Khan managed to speak about the Las Vegas shooting, what truth and the self really is, activism at its root, white supremacy, the Trump administration and so much more.

Khan opened with a simple question: "How do I make this meaningful when it feels like the world, at least the United States, is ending?" A tough question to answer, but one that needed to be answered before the real discussion could begin, as the issue looming over everyone's head was what had happened Sunday night in Nevada. After touching upon the unfortunate elephant in the room, Khan delved into the first concept — what truth is.

According to Khan, the world we live in is a fast food, instant coffee age of information where people do not verify what is true with research. The idea of truth that Khan spoke to is "complicated" right now, arguing whether something was truth simply because people believe it and that it has now become people's responsibility to figure out what is truth.

Almost as quickly as the issue of truth was discussed, Khan moved on to the issues surrounding white privilege, or rather, white supremacy.

"I want us to talk about what is actually happening and I want us to be brave about it. Because what we've been doing, it's not working. The way that we talk around things, the way that we talk about white privilege but we don't talk about white supremacy, it's actually debilitating our ability to change things."

Khan argued that most people aren't having these types of conversations in the first place, at least the ones that need to, and, on top of that, most people aren't in groups of people different than themselves – whether in race, religion, political views, etc.

"The greatest indicator of who was going to vote for Trump and who voted for Trump, beyond race, beyond gender, beyond class was zip code. You know what that tells me? It's not just about what we stand for, it's who we sit with. I think we can all agree, white supremacy is a bad thing. If you don't you're in the wrong room."

Most powerful among Khan's statements on white privilege and supremacy was this: "Something's been nagging me and I wanted to bring it up. When you think about the Confederate South, one of those things that comes to mind is those images of people dressed in their Sunday best standing in front of a camera smiling while black bodies hung from trees. What if we're those people? You know how we look back on them and say how could they have let that happen? What if lynches were traded for bullets and mass incarceration and slavery actually just mutated into the prison industrial complex, and we actually see black bodies on the pavement and still don't respond? What if this generation is exactly the same except the tactics are different? We're really good at looking back. We're not so good at looking at now."

One of the most important takeaways from Khan's perspective on privilege was how it they contextualized it as not a sense of what is yours but rather what you haven't had to go through. Khan argued that instead of listening to others and comparing whose struggles are worse, see the connectedness of it instead. Khan supported that belief by explaining that people have begun to know a lot about each other without spending a lot of time together – an issue of reinforced stereotypes that allow individual truths to inform collective truths.

The discussion morphed back to the attack in Las Vegas, but also to the recent natural disasters that hit Texas, Florida and, most recently, Puerto Rico.

"I guess with Puerto Rico you can say that only some Americans matter. I guess with Black people too, and black people in general, only some matter."

While Khan touched on endless societal issues in the discussion, it was the advice on activism that left attendees with at the end that stuck.

"I don't need all of you to be activists, I just need you to be active. If you don't know how to disprove something, dispute it. When you don't know what to do, do what you know but don't do nothing, nothing cannot be an option. We don't get to ask how did this happen because instead we must be asking what can I do about it."

But possibly the most powerful quote of the evening, and one that clearly resonated well with those in the audience, was Khan's fiery opposition to the way those in the Black Lives Matter movement in the world have been perceived.

"I'll tell you there is something terrifying in this country and that is black leadership; there has not been one black leader that hasn't had an FBI file in this country, not one. There is something about leadership that looks like this," Khan said, circling their face with their finger, "that is so terrifying in fact that a movement that is largely led by women, by queer and trans people and by disabled people and a movement of people that look like me, we are called terrorists though we've never bore arms."

IAN ADLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Students, faculty, staff and members of the community packed into Miller Forum, with overflow ending up sitting along the aisles as well as in the lobby.

The overwhelming turnout and support for Khan by current Muhlenberg students would have been expected, with peaking interest in social justice over the past few years. However, dozens of alumni voiced their on a Facebook post promoting the event – including phrases like "this school disgusts me... that you would open your doors to filth like this is disgusting" and "was such a great college once. sorry it has fallen so far."

> **"The way that we talk around things ... it's actually debilitating our ability to change things."**

Not all alumni echoed this sentiment, with some responding in support. One in particular who travelled from Rhode Island just for Khan's talk, stood up and made sure to clarify that not all alumni thought the same.

"I just want to say how wonderful it is to have you here. I can't be more proud of Muhlenberg for bringing you here. I am a white male, grew up in a white family in a white town, and it is important, it is good work and it makes us better people."

Khan was an important speaker on campus; some may argue necessary. With the current unrest in the country, and a campus where racially fueled incidents have made students of color feel unsafe, speakers like Khan that argue for activism but also inclusiveness have the ability to spark needed conversations and action.

Although Khan's talk ended positively with a call to action, the on campus reaction in the late evening or early morning hours turned negative.

Flyers claiming to be from the "Alternative Center for Ethics" were posted across campus arguing against the foundations of the Black Lives Matter movement. Under headings such as "police killings" and "black crime," the flyer stated that "blacks are disproportionately killed by the police but they also are even more disproportionately responsible for violent crime."

Furthermore, the flyer was labeled "Alternative Troubling Truth #1," which implies that there may be more flyers posted around campus.

Tuesday afternoon, another flyer labeled "Truth to Power" began circulating around campus in response to the original flyer. This one stated that "when we say Black Lives Matter, we are broadening the conversation around state violence to include all of the ways in which Black people are intentionally left powerless at the hands of the state. We are talking about the ways in which Black lives are deprived of our basic human rights and dignity," which is pulled from the Black Lives Matter website.

President Williams responded late Tuesday evening via email, stating that he was "deeply disturbed" that the conversations Khan had begun had devolved into hateful and disrespectful interactions through the distribution of these anonymous flyers, as well as on the College's social media.

Williams also affirmed the idea that Muhlenberg is committed to the promotion of free speech, aiming to create "independent critical thinkers with a zest for reasoned and civil debate and who are equipped with ethical and civic values."

Future discussions in the Center for Ethics series "Troubling Truth" will cover topics such as transgender issues, religion, politics, and concludes with a performance of "Dreamscape" on Nov. 17. The play addresses the negative role policing and surveillance has played in communitites of colors.

To follow Strategic Plan, Master Plan

BY MELISSA REPH
NEWS EDITOR

Muhlenberg's most recent strategic planning process began in October 2016 and is moving towards completion.

The College has hired Wallace Roberts and Todd Design (WRT) to help in forming a Campus Master Plan, which will act as a roadmap for the next 20 to 25 years in terms of development at Muhlenberg.

WRT employs architects, urban planners and landscape architects who work with colleges and universities to help them lay out development strategies for the future. Additionally, while this is the first time WRT is working with Muhlenberg, they are not unfamiliar with the Lehigh Valley as they currently work with Lafayette College.

The main goal of the Master Plan is to follow the recently finalized Strategic Plan and give options on how to realize and improve it, as well as incorporating student, faculty and administrative feedback. This will be implemented and combined with the existing plans and infrastructure.

While many of the Master Plan's suggestions are long term and unlikely to affect current students, there are aspects that may be implemented within the next five years. WRT also stresses that even though students may not see their suggestions immediately, there is still a need for their feedback as future students will be affected by the final recommendations.

To gauge student opinions and suggestions, WRT has been meeting with student groups throughout the process, including: athletes, RAs, Greek Life, Student Government and the Muhlenberg Theater and Dance Associations. Additionally, they have created a short survey for students to complete; it can be found at: www.muhlenberg.edu/strategicplan/masterplanning/, under "Provide Feedback."

Currently, the Master Plan is still in the drafting process and it will be submitted to the Board of Trustees by the end of the month. Following their feedback, it will be brought back to the faculty and staff and students for their thoughts with a final Master Plan being submitted to the Board in January. The Weekly will continue to follow the developments of the Master Plan and keep the community updated.

This Week in Muhlenberg College History:

Amiri Baraka stirs up controversy in Muhlenberg speech

BY KARL SCHULTZ
NEWS WRITER

"This Week in Muhlenberg College History" will bring to light past events, individuals, and forgotten aspects of Muhlenberg history that have been buried within the College's 169 years of existence.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Amiri Baraka stands out front of Memorial Hall after his speech to students. Around 1,800 people formed the crowd for the "controversial" presentation.

In the light of this week's Black Lives Matter speaker, it is important to look back at similar speeches that have come before. Though many believe Black Lives Matter is a new movement, its roots spread back farther than imagined. The adage that history repeats itself is one I've never given much credit to, but this week's speech gave some credence. Almost exactly 50 years ago today, Amiri Baraka, formerly LeRoi Jones, noted civil rights activist, spoke at Muhlenberg College.

Baraka was a poet, writer, actor, director, and a devout activist for social justice and African American rights. After the assassination of Malcolm X in 1965, Baraka changed his name from Everett LeRoi Jones to Amiri Baraka. At his time during the racial unrest of the civil rights era, many saw his ideas as more "radical" and "provocative" than most. However, that did not stop him from speaking at Muhlenberg College to a crowd of 1,800 people. It is important to note that college enrollment at the time was around 1,500, so his reach far exceeded that of Muhlenberg's campus.

The headline of the Sept. 21, 1967 Weekly sets the tone for Baraka's speech: "LeRoi Jones stuns Whitey: 'Black power will prevail'." The Weekly describes Baraka as, according to the "White Man's eyes," "a militant, trouble-stirring-upper Negro, from whose lips the phrase 'black power' is never long absent." Baraka began his speech by reading an excerpt from an essay he was trying to get published, but likely wouldn't due to its content. The essay, mirroring modern sentiments, spoke on the "civic corruption" of Newark, NJ. Baraka spoke on the mafia stronghold over the city, and their absolute disenfranchisement of the "Newark Negroes" who made up over 50% of the city's population. He also spoke on the ongoing riots, and the tokenism of black police officers. Baraka argued that not only were no black policemen above the rank of lieutenant, but that any black police officer would only be promoted in order to advance the claims of "Great Strides Forward" the white liberals were pushing. Baraka claimed that though his "black brethren" were approaching some level of freedom, those at the top were still forced "to eat the same amount of shit they ever did."

His speech hit a climax when Braka called for the creation of a "Negro State." He felt this would end the strife of the ongoing riots and cause peace between the now separated races. Baraka felt this would be a very easy change, simply using the already present separatism to their advantage. He called this process "natural and irrevocable," and went on to call for the "collectivization of Negro force for the Big Put-Down of the White Man." Calling his language "downright offensive to our white (lily-white) ears," the Weekly went on to say Baraka was "in short, no joy to hear." Admitting their own bias, the article wraps up, "we, who represent for the most part, the white middle-class, whose rights and freedom go unquestioned, are not the ones in the slums, waiting and rotting while we wait. Until we have some answers, some solutions, we whites would like the blacks to wait some more — but, as ever, we would be comfortably resting on top of them."

In the same issue, a letter to the editor entitled "People Power" draws clear parallels to today's notion that "all lives matter." In the letter, the writer, who requested to remain anonymous, wrote that the cry of "black power" was "very shallow" and done so in vain. The writer goes on to claim that both sides should come together to fight not the white man, but instead the "white Establishment." They end their letter claiming that "a real social critic doesn't cry for 'black power' nor for 'white power,' but for 'people power'." Though some contemporary and modern advocates for social justice may have seen Baraka's cries for black power as different from their own, the silencing of such cries to just be lumped in with the empowerment of whites draws clear ties to today's ill-conceived "all lives matter" movement.

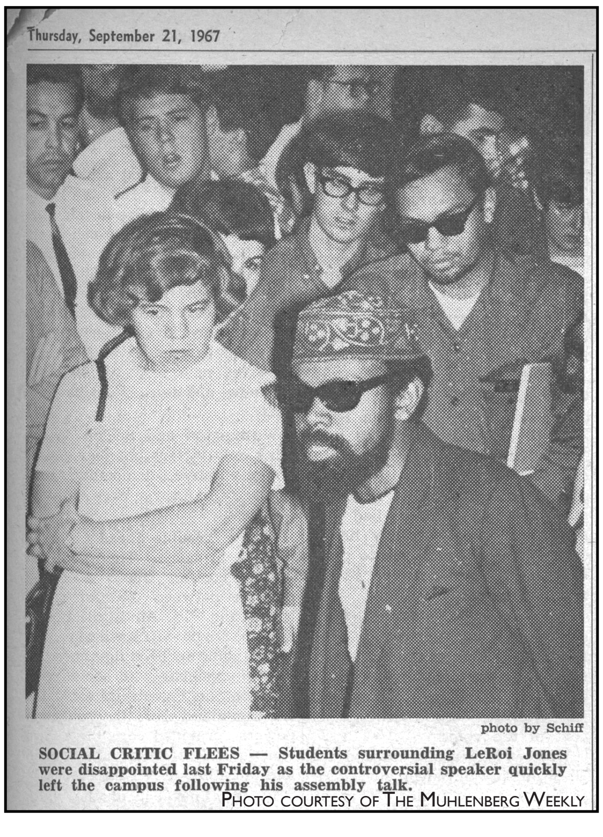
Unsurprisingly, Baraka's speech was not greeted with total approval. Articles such as "College image suffers in LeRoi Jones aftermath" go on to explain that the greater Allentown area condemned the college's allowance of such a vulgar speech. The Call-Chronicle even published an article titled "Was All the Filth Necessary?" in which they implied that Baraka was met with resounding support from the crowd after his speech. In her letter to the editor, then sophomore Debbie Burin '69 debunked this assumption, while also criticizing their "most un-American attitude." Burin admits that those in full support of Baraka were in the vast minority, but still believed that the students had every right to hear him speak. Burin writes, "How can these citizens claim to have an All-American city when they seem to want to have a 'Big Brother' of Orwell's 1984 watching over the young people of today making sure they hear only what the citizens consider worth reading or hearing?" Burin ends her letter saying that she is "still proud to be a student of Muhlenberg College, for here we are permitted to get first-hand knowledge."

With the ill-will towards the college continuing, then-president Erling Jensen published a statement in the Oct. 12, 1967 issue of the Weekly. In it he wrote:

> The students on college campuses, including those at Muhlenberg College, must be able to hear about, and discuss, these important issues that are of such great concern throughout the entire country… Our students must be acquainted with these problems, since they are the ones who will be participating in the decisions and the proposed solutions that hopefully will solve this very serious problem.

Jensen stressed the importance of student expression and their ability to choose their own speakers. After this, rumors of his forced resignation at the hand of the Board of Trustees circulated, and student protest erupted in support of their free-speaking president.

Though this week's speech was met with some backlash, both online and in person, it still had a clear and important message. Though not the same as Baraka's, the stories of riots between police and innocent people of color as well as a country seemingly led with white interests solely in mind were preached by both speakers. One could argue these two speeches a half century apart are an example of history repeating itself, but instead I ask you to think of these speeches as not two disconnected events, but instead as one voice left unanswered for so long.



Thursday, September 21, 1967

photo by Schiff

SOCIAL CRITIC FLEES — Students surrounding LeRoi Jones were disappointed last Friday as the controversial speaker quickly left the campus following his assembly talk.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Arts & Culture

“You must write, and read, as if your life depended on it.”
—Adrienne Rich

Right down the street:

Creativity is just around the corner

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Every so often, the places we love are subject to the fleeting desires of the people surrounding them — maybe your roommate is suddenly overcome with the inexplicable desire to cover their half of the room in floor-to-wall movie posters, or maybe your teacher decides to transform your classroom into a miniature Hogwarts (look it up — this actually happened). Or maybe, just maybe, a group of people decides to transform a park into a performance space, a seemingly endless portal into a world teeming with inspiration, creativity and pure delight.

This was Allentown ArtsFest 2017, a three-day event that spanned from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 and was jam-packed with bands, vendors and, of course, food that constituted an art form in and of itself. Though a visit to Cedar Beach Park never fails to provide a great story to tell, this past weekend had filled the space with a vitality I had never felt before. Children and adults alike donned their most creative garb, all venturing along a kind of yellow-brick-road to whatever artistic medium they wanted to see: the event’s Facebook page did not lie when it proclaimed that “ArtsFest offers something for everyone to enjoy.” Pat Kanter ’20, who walked to the festival on Saturday afternoon, found that he experienced a unique blend of familiar and unfamiliar faces.

“[I] did … check out the majority of the vendors. It was refreshing to see how much art people are making in the real world,” Kanter said. “One of the artists that stuck out to me was Brian’s Dots, who did pointillism art. Normally I don’t enjoy that style, but his works were amusing. We also got coffee from the Coffee House Without Limits stand. They’re based in Allentown … I go there every now and again to study and it’s always so welcoming.”

“ ... There was always something to accompany our ears as our eyes wandered through an artistic wonderland.”

Bringing together different types of media is what sets ArtsFest apart from festivals like it — while others tend to focus on only one aspect of art, such as songs or painting, ArtsFest lives up to the “s” in its name by allowing each of these arts to mingle with others in perfect harmony. Veteran ArtsFest attendee Elena Nahrmann ’19 recalls her joy at simply being able to take in all of these works at the same time.

All photos: Arielle Waxman/The Muhlenberg Weekly

“I remember going to ArtsFest with the performance ensemble I’m a part of last year. We spent what was our normal rehearsal time walking around sniffing artisan soaps and taste testing local honey … it is just so nice to go wandering through the different stalls,” said Nahrmann. “Each of the vendors are super friendly and have great things to sell. My personal favorite has always been this guy who spray paints vinyl records with the album covers or landscapes. But the thing that really makes ArtsFest special in my opinion is the music. It feels like every twenty feet there’s another band playing and they’re really good. There was a guy with an electric xylophone!”

Though each aspect of ArtsFest, including an impromptu skate park and a booth or two of full-scale carnival games, was impressive and intriguing, perhaps the most striking feature was indeed the music – as I walked along the path with my friend, we continually encountered new tunes blasting from covered tents. As soon as one faded, the next would begin, never quite overlapping, but just making sure that there was always something to accompany our ears as our eyes wandered through an artistic wonderland. In fact, music was what drew Kanter to the festival in the first place.

“I’m obsessed with music and going to concerts as often as I can…One of the first [shows in Allentown] that I went to was actually at Muhlenberg (I was a sophomore in high school if I remember correctly), hosted by WMUH in Seegers Union,” Kanter said. “Now I’m the music director for WMUH, and I’m currently booking the fall concert, featuring a local Bethlehem band as the opener! Funny how things work out! But yeah, I also just try to expose myself to art and appreciate art in general.”

Even if you’re just looking for something to do on a weekend afternoon, ArtsFest and other local events provide perfect opportunities for students to get to know the community around us and, as with the World of Food Festival a few weeks ago, pop the Muhlenbubble. According to Nahrmann, these events are even more accessible (and, perhaps, more worth a visit) than some of the more well-publicized ones.

“[ArtsFest is] a great excuse to get outside and spend time with friends not in Seegers or the dining hall, not to mention it’s free,” said Nahrmann. “Unlike the [Allentown] Fair, you can stop by and not have to worry about seeing everything that day.”

This sentiment is echoed by Kanter, whose enthusiasm for ArtsFest is the perfect reminder of how important a constant and active presence of the arts can be, especially when it starts from within a community itself:

An ornately dressed festival-goer shows off her costume at Allentown ArtsFest 2017.

“… People, especially Muhlenberg Students, should support community events like ArtsFest … just showing up at these events is important, not only for the artists but also for everyone else … there are so many talented, creative individuals in Allentown and the Greater Lehigh Valley who don’t have the means to go to [college] or otherwise get the word out about their art. ArtsFest, Coffee House Without Limits, the Alternative Gallery, the Art Establishment, [the Lehigh Valley] Zine Fest; these are all places where local artists can show off their beautiful art, and where Muhlenberg students could potentially admire that art. Of course, it can be difficult to get to these places without a car, but at least ArtsFest is right down the street...”

WMUH stakes its claim outside the mainstream

By Sydney Coplin
Arts & Culture Writer

WMUH, Muhlenberg's radio station located inside Walson Hall, began as a simple radio club in 1948. Now, almost 70 years later, the team of board members and DJs have a mission: to reclaim the sense of community that radio is supposed to bring within the campus.

Holly Lehren '19 is on air every Friday from 12-2p.m., and proudly broadcasts a show that consists of not just music, but also discussion about important social issues. She described her experience with the radio as "a great use of self-expression. It is a beautiful thing, connecting through a crowd. It is also a lot of fun, and I am lucky to be a part of it."

While Lehren does actually lend her voice to the radio, many of the other DJs choose just to play music. Station Manager Samara Jones '18 described the music that is most likely to be heard through the radio waves, "We are mainly an alternative station, so you get diversity. Some of these diverse genres may include rock, jazz, and indie." Secretary Rebecca Cooperstein '20 also added, "and show tunes too."

With such a unique compilation of music, there is actually only a very small demographic of students that tune in regularly. In a survey done with a sample of students ranging across all class years, only a little over 20 percent of responders have actually listened to the on-campus radio.

Ali Ruchman '19 was one of those loyal WMUH fans, and she shared some great ideas for getting more students to listen. "I think it'd be cool if it was used more around campus like in the gym or the dining hall," Ruchman said.

Having more exposure across the school would certainly help, especially considering that about 80 percent of survey-takers have never listened to it. Of that group, around ten percent were unaware of its existence. As Brittany Barlin '21 explained, "I did not know it existed, and now that I do, I don't know how to access it."

Jessica Land '18, on the other hand, already knew about the station. However, she definitely does feel that more can be done to make other students know about it: "I think that it is great that Muhlenberg has a radio station, because it is giving interested students a great opportunity to learn and work in an area that interests them. If advertised more, it could be a way for students that listen to form a stronger connection to our school."

In terms of how the radio team is working to increase their presence around campus, they plan to host more sponsored events, such as a concert every semester. In addition, they can be found at the Fall and Spring activities fairs.

Ian Adler/Muhlenbrg Weekly

Michaela Colahan '21 presides over the soundboard during her radio show.

Although many Muhlenberg students may not be listening to the radio, members of the greater Allentown community do. Lehren actually credits an Allentown citizen for having a huge impact on her show: "I held a poll to name my show, and it was actually someone from the [Allentown] community who called in who gave me the idea for it."

Aside from that instance, Lehren, as well as the other DJs and board members, claim that they frequently get calls from people outside of campus that really appreciate the work being done through the station. Jones said that some people who call in are actually truckers, one of which expressed, "I get excited whenever WMUH 91.7FM comes into range, and I always listen."

Overall, while listenership does come from mainly outside community members, the station really does want to attract more Muhlenberg students too. When students listen to the radio, they are obviously supporting their peers. However, it is also just a great way to discover different music that cannot be found in students' regular playlists. Just as Program Director Benjamin Goldberg '20 says, "... it is music outside the mainstream."

Be sure to check out WMUH by streaming it online at www.muhlenberg.edu/wmuh/ or by tuning in to 91.7FM on the radio.

The Religious Effect: On Yom Kippur

Exploring the meaning of forgiveness

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

From one sunset to the next, a certain day in the year is revered and honored by millions of people across the world. It is a time of memory and understanding, repentance and forgiveness, as well as reflection and rejuvenation. Last weekend, students and faculty gathered and began their preparations for the holiest of holidays on the Jewish calendar — Yom Kippur.

With this in mind though, the answer still seems vague to those of non-Jewish descent. How does such a holiday apply to modern day? To college life, even? These answers, of course, vary in terms of religious branch, history, culture and geography.

Allow me to turn your attention to a brief conversation I had with Muhlenberg student Mali Goller '19, an active member and leader of Reform Jewish Services:

"Yom Kippur is a day of atonement where you ask God for forgiveness, for any sins you may have done in the past year... you fast in order to contemplate the hardships [of] the past year and the years to come so God understands that you feel true forgiveness."

"Forgiveness" is the key word that this article is primarily about — what does it mean to truly forgive someone? Meaning and understanding vary of course, but the two definitions I wish to discuss are mercy and absolution.

Mercy is often described as a gift to bestow on one another. To quote a favorite play of mine, William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice," mercy is but a "quality" or a drop "as the gentle rain from heaven ... It is twice blest; It blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

Before I continue, I must make clear that I am fully aware of the anti-semitic plot and vocabulary used in this particular play — and by no means am I condoning any action to support such claims or otherwise. No, my point in quoting "The Merchant of Venice" is to stress the meaning and value that Yom Kippur stretches beyond the religious scope and mindset. Mercy, in the form of an act or otherwise, is a concept that religious and nonreligious individuals understand as well as hold in high esteem.

An interesting talk I found on the BBC website, from the radio show "Beyond Belief," discusses 'mercy' conceptually with three religious leaders: Father Daniel O'Leary to represent Catholicism, Asad Zaman of the Muslim faith, and Buddhist Alison Murdoch. Mediating the discussion is Ernie Rea, a freelance writer and member of the interfaith organization Three Faiths Forum.

The program begins with a question of what 'mercy' means to the various religions and philosophies represented. Father O'Leary describes mercy as the "heart of Christian tradition" and, he believes, is always regarded of "the flesh…" and the human condition.

Asad Zaman continues his analysis of mercy through the lens of the Muslim faith, the idea that mercy is split into "one hundred parts, and [God] has distributed one part of that to the whole of humanity, and has kept ninety-nine parts to the self." To clarify, there are two words in Arabic that can be used to mean 'merciful' — *rachman* and *rahim*. Both, however, refer to different aspects of mercy that are valued equally in the Islamic faith.

Zaman says: "One of those attributes of God applies to the whole of his creation, every man, woman and child on the planet — in fact, every living thing. And the other word, *rahim*, refers particularly to those that believe in God."

When Alison Murdoch was asked about mercy, she clarified that Buddhist tradition does not practice mercy itself, but rather emphasizes "kindness and compassion. The Buddhist definition of compassion is very precise; it's about wanting our own and other people's suffering to end." She then further clarifies that suffering is not necessarily about pain alone; but discontent, and "disturbing thoughts" that "[get] in the way of our happiness."

The discussion continues, going deeper and deeper into the parallels and discrepancies from faith to philosophy. I highly suggest you visit the BBC website "Beyond Belief" to not only watch the episode, but also to check out other interesting, and controversial topics.

As I mentioned previously, the theme of "forgiveness" in Yom Kippur also refers to the term absolution. While mercy can be described as a gift among humanity, absolution is described as a promise of release — and, more interestingly, "freedom."

Unlike mercy, forgiveness holds a weight of contract; it is an agreement of understanding between parties in hopes to move on and uphold their futures. This applies not only to religious life, but secular understanding and law.

With the end of Yom Kippur, the world renewed and reborn, we come to the realization that not only are we forgiven, but that we are free to live and be. We are only human; sometimes, that is all we can say — and that is beautiful.

Now this is HALLOWEEN

Da Vinci Center hosts Jack-O-Lantern Lane

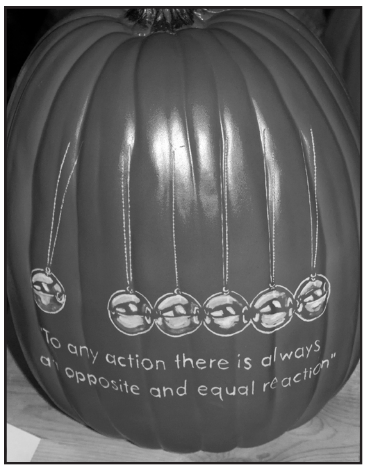
BY ETHAN FORRER
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Let me ask you — boys and girls of every age, wouldn't you like to see something strange? Well, it's that time of the year again, and by that I mean Halloween. The never ending hot summer days are finally coming to an end. Fall is finally upon us and Halloween's just a month away, so it's time to get into the spirit of things. To all you fellow fans of this spooky holiday, I give you Ian Fetterman, a professional jack-o-lantern carver.

Fetterman grew up about half an hour from Muhlenberg in Easton, PA, as a Halloween fanatic, carving pumpkins whenever he could, and, after switching over to synthetic foam pumpkins so they wouldn't rot, he started receiving orders for his work from all around, eventually becoming a professional pumpkin carver. This brings us to Jack-O-Lantern Lane, an exhibit at the Da Vinci Science Center located next to Cedar Crest College, that shows off about fifty or so of Fetterman's diverse jack-o-lantern creations.

Jack-O-Lantern Lane offers a massive range of carvings, varying from general Halloween themes and cultural icons to carvings of scientific discoveries and even portraits of scientists themselves. Some of my favorite classic Halloween carvings feature an eerily dark pumpkin with a black cat's face in front of a full moon and a meta-carving of the well known jack-o-lantern face complete with its own candlestick visible through its mouth, all carved onto the face of pumpkin.

The cultural works range all the way from Harry Potter to first generation Pokemon, "Star Trek" characters, a Minecraft creeper, and even Ms. Frizzle from "The Magic School Bus." To all you science majors out there, there's plenty of pumpkins you'll all get a kick out of. Chemistry majors might enjoy checking out a periodic table jack-o-lantern for the element hydrogen. The biology majors can find works like the March of Progress carved into a pumpkin. There's even stuff for you physics majors out there like a jack-o-lantern of Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man transposed on top of Neil Bohr's classic model of the atom.


To any action there is always an opposite and equal reaction"

Jack-O-Lantern Lane isn't just about moving from one piece of art to the next down the line; it's also filled with many unique science-inspired attractions to keep everyone from the youngest of kids to the oldest of college professors entertained.

The guide at the exhibit spoke about the main theme and core concepts that are in this year's Jack-O-Lantern Lane. "The theme this year is energy," she said, pointing out different stations around the exhibit, "so everything is related to energy. Like light energy. Here we talk about thermal cameras for thermal energy. Electricity is a type of energy. We have gears to kinda show motion and energy and how they correspond. Sound funnels for sound is also energy, vibrations and things like that… and then we have a large Newton's cradle over there too."

To explain some of the stations she mentioned: the light energy is represented by the miniature face of a house and some miniature pumpkins, where, depending on which of the window sills you placed the pumpkins, all the windows in the house would light up different colors. Some of the jack-o-lanterns were lit up by special heat lights so that their designs would show up on an infrared camera.

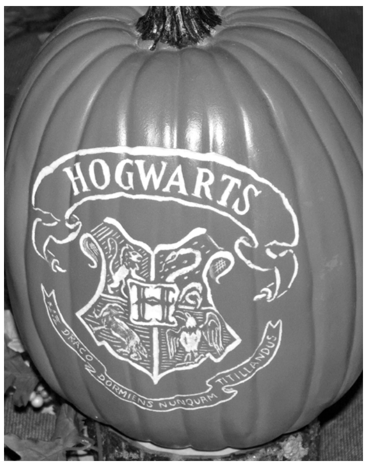
Lastly, to all you pumpkin purists out there, don't discredit these jack-o-lanterns just because they're made from fake pumpkins. While synthetic pumpkins do break away from the tradition of lighting up your porch with scary looking gourds for one night, or more like a couple weeks, out of the year, they have many advantages when it comes to making a professional artwork out of jack-o-lanterns.

Besides scooping out the guts of the pumpkin, the actual process of carving a synthetic pumpkin is about as difficult as carving a regular pumpkin just with a Dremel knife instead of an X-acto knife. If anything, carving a synthetic pumpkin is even messier than carving a natural one because of all the dust that gets created and blown around from the spinning Dremel blade, a factor you wouldn't need to worry about with a regular knife blade.

Some of the benefits of using a pumpkin replacement are, of course, the longevity of the jack-o-lanterns, as the synthetic pumpkin won't ever rot. There are also more artistic uses for the face of a synthetic pumpkin, such as the easy application of paint, giving rise to creations like the camouflaged Minecraft creeper face and the black cat against the moon jack-o-lantern.

Natural or not, I think it's safe to say that our man Fetterman is King of the Pumpkin Patch. Everyone hail to the Pumpkin King!

Jack-O-Lantern Lane will be haunting the Da Vinci Science Center off of Hamilton Boulevard Bypass until the first week of November. General admission to the center and all of their exhibits, including Jack-O-Lantern Lane, costs about $13. Happy Halloween (in, like, a month).



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Muhlenberg College Dining
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Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Can you dig it?

Mules enter Conference play during historic 11-game winning streak

By Max Shapiro
Sports Writer

The Mules volleyball team found themselves off to a successful start to the year, winning their first six games and sitting with a record of 6-2 after back to back losses during the Buttermaker Tournament. Since those two losses, however, the team has been unstoppable, literally. The girls haven't lost since the first week of September, rattling off 11 straight wins in their last 11 matches. The winning streak is the team's longest since a 13 game streak in 2013, and has their record up to a sparkling 17-2 overall. Two of those 17 wins also include Centennial Conference victories over Dickinson and Haverford.

A vital component of the winning streak has been the girls' performance in crunch time. Of the eleven straight wins, four of them have come in a fifth, decisive, final set. While the girls have displayed their dominance over opponents, they have also shown the ability to perform in clutch situations with their backs against the wall. On Sept. 16, in back to back matches against Scranton and Stockton, the girls found themselves down 2-0 against each opponent. In both matches, the team then proceeded to take the next three sets and the victory. Against Lebanon Valley this past Saturday, they battled back from an early points deficit in the fifth set to seal the victory by a set score of 3-2. The win over the Flying Dutchmen extended the streak to double digits, before rolling over Union College 3-0 to put the 11 game winning streak in the books. The squad's performance in fifth and deciding sets has been superb thus far, as they are 4-1 in matches that have reached the final stanza. "Perseverance and commitment. We are a team that never seems to give up. We are relentless in our fight to win and we are committed to one another throughout the entire match," Laura Boll '20 said of the team's continued success in the late stages of close matches.

Another big factor in the team's success has been junior captain Shannon Hubert. On Sept. 25, she was named Centennial Conference Player of the Week for the third time in her college career. So far this year, Hubert leads the entire Centennial Conference, and is ranked 38th in all of Division III volleyball in assists per set with 9.91. Hubert also ranks fourth in Muhlenberg volleyball history in assists with a total of 2,275. In Centennial Conference play thus far, she has averaged over 11 assists per game, and over 10.5 during the week in which she won the award. "She's come into this year focused and determined. She's a strong leader for our team and sets high goals for herself, as well as the team," eighth year Head Coach Alexa Keckler said of Hubert.

"We are relentless in our fight to win and we are committed to one another throughout the entire match."

While the win streak has been an exceptional accomplishment, the team hasn't let it go to their head. Rather, they are simply enjoying the success they've earned thus far, and are hoping to use it as momentum going forward. "It's been amazing to have so much success in the beginning of our conference schedule and out of conference games. Although our conference matches are extremely important, especially in such a competitive league, having success against strong non-conference opponents has just added to our overall confidence and has put us in a positive spot heading into the thick of conference play," said Tara Register '20.

The team will now shift its focus to their Centennial Conference. Of their remaining ten games, eight of them are in-conference matchups. Victories in these games will be crucial in the team making the Centennial Conference tournament, which the Mules fought their way into last year, earning the #4 seed. While the squad would obviously love to continue the streak, their main goal is to take the remaining games one win at a time and focus more on their opponents than the streak. "As exciting as an 11 game win streak is, we hit the important part of our schedule in the next three weeks. Hopefully what our success out of conference has taught us is that we can hang with the best in our conference no matter the situation we find ourselves in," Coach Keckler said. Their next game is at home on Oct. 4 versus Bryn Mawr, the team's first conference matchup since their win over Dickinson back on Sept. 23.

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from **Football**
page 12

of play between high school and college is drastically different. Among many changes between the two levels, Hnatkowsky noted that playing football in college is a much faster and more physical game. Additionally, there has been a substantial amount of greater meetings and practices. Even with the heavy time commitment, Hnatkowsky believes that being a part of the football team has made the transition from high school to college go much smoother.

Hnatkowsky noted that playing football in college is a much faster and more physical game.

"Playing football here actually keeps me more focused because it helps me manage my time better with limited free time due to practices and lots of homework. But I really like it here so far, the whole team really has been great."

Although he has enjoyed being around all the members of the football team, a couple players have especially been beneficial to Hnatkowsky in his time at Muhlenberg thus far. Nick Savant '18 and Matthew Stickney '18 have frequently served as mentors to the freshman quarterback as he comes into this year replacing a Muhlenberg legend.

"I've heard that Nick Paladino was a once-in-a-lifetime player," Hnatkowsky said, speaking of the former Mules record-setting quarterback. "Having teammates like Savant and Stickney have really helped me adjust to playing at Muhlenberg and just adjusting to a new role now as the starting quarterback." In addition, Hnatkowsky noted that he learned much from the other quarterbacks on the Muhlenberg roster. But despite being just a freshman, he has risen above them all on the team's depth chart.

In his first career collegiate start, Hnatkowsky put up amazing numbers. He threw for 227 yards and four touchdowns. He also ran the ball for a touchdown to give him five total scores on the day. His spectacular effort propelled the Mules to a thrilling 56-40 win over Juniata. All in all, this was more than enough for the Centennial Conference to award Hnatkowsky with Centennial Conference Offensive Player of the Week honors.

In his second career start this past weekend against Franklin & Marshall, Hnatkowsky threw for 202 yards and one touchdown. Ultimately, F&M pulled away with a 17-14 victory, despite a second-half comeback push from the Mules.

With another half of the 2017 football season yet to be played, Hnatkowsky still has much to learn. It is amazing what he has already accomplished in his first year as a college quarterback, but he knows that he still has plenty of room to grow as a football player. Hnatkowsky is very excited to see what the rest of the season holds, and he can't wait to continue going to battle each week with his Muhlenberg teammates.

Cross Country picks up the pace

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

The Muhlenberg Cross Country teams didn't start their seasons with the most positive finishes, but as of late, they have both come out of the gate swiftly in their last few meets.

The teams started the fall with the Lehigh Invitational where both teams finished third out of the meet's three competitors.

Since the Lehigh Invitational, captain Anthony Calantoni '18 says the team is progressing just as it should be. "I think the team is improving exactly the way our coaching staff envisions," Calantoni explained.

Their next meet was the Division II/III challenge in Kutztown, Pa. The men ranked 11th of 19, receiving a solid effort from stand-out Corey Mullins '19. On the women's track, the Mules finished 6th of 18 in the Division II/III Challenge. Two lady-mules, Jamie Pacilio '18 and Emily Davidson '18, finished within the top 25 performers at the challenge, with Pacilio notching a 9th place finish and Davidson rounding out the top 25.

This past weekend, the Muhlenberg Cross Country teams took a trip to the Dickinson Long-Short Invitational. Individually, several Mules stepped up and finished strong in their respective meets. Mullins' strong performance was the highlight of the meet, as he finished the long race (eight kilometers) at a 25:52.5 tick which ranked second in the whole race. Roughly 43 seconds later, Calantoni placed 12th with a time of 26:35.2, which was only thirteen seconds shy of his top time at the Paul Short Run last season. Finally for the men, their last top 15 performance crossed the line 3 seconds after Calantoni when Jason Richwall '20 finished 14th.

Calantoni had high remarks of Richwall.

"He is stepping up to the role of being a number three runner. Every year we are looking for the people to replace the ones we lost. In order to do this everyone needs to do their part."

In the women's race, the Mules top performer in the 4K was Victoria Cabellos '20, who finished in 15:50.5. The best finish in the longer leg for the women was Mallory Snyder '18, who ran a 24:59.5 6K race.

Calantoni says the teams are now looking to improve hill running.

"Our regional course at Dickinson offers various needs to excel at short intense hills. This will be a key factor in excelling at the right time," said Calantoni.

He added another key to ending the season on a winning note means more consistency from the whole team.

"We need to work on this closing the gap between our top three runners and our equally important number four and five runners. If we can begin to pack up better and lower our spread at the end of the race, then we can surprise some teams that don't consider us a threat," Calantoni added.

Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Seniors Mallory Snyder (L) and Anthony Calantoni (R) in their heats at this weekend's Dickinson Long-Short Invitational.

The Mules seemed to do quite a bit of surprising at the Dickinson Long-Short Invitational that Calantoni mentions. The men made headlines for how well they competed against some of the top competition at the meet. They finished one point ahead of Dickinson, who is regionally ranked by both the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. They also only finished three points behind Division I Bucknell.

Calantoni can see this Muhlenberg Cross Country season being a success.

"I believe there is great potential in this group of athletes. We just need to continue to believe in our training and move forward one race at a time. The team understands the weaknesses that we have and will address them now, so we can perform our best at our regional competition."

Additional reporting by Jordy Bonvini

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Coach Shaun Lally watches from the side of the mat in the 2016-17 season.

FROM **Wrestling**
PAGE 12

Lally did address the team personally. "Coach Lally left us on a positive note, and made it clear that he will always be around for us," Cerminara said. He added that Lally's final message suggested that the program will "continue to rise and build a championship program after he departed. He laid the groundwork, but it's up to us to continue to build the program in that direction."

Although the Mules may not be looking for a permanent answer to carry out Lally's short-lived but notable legacy just yet, the team doesn't intend to waste an opportunity to build on the success it has started to lay the foundation for. "We are looking for someone who will fit in well with the current team," said Goff, regarding the short-term solution the Mules are looking for. Goff added, "Our student athletes need quality leadership in place so they can start their season on time."

Goff mentioned one particular outlet that has already offered some promising options that Muhlenberg may consider looking into. "Through our contacts at the National Wrestling Coaches Association, we have already been in touch with several potential candidates and have our first interview scheduled for Oct. 3," Goff shared. He had a similar message for the team when he met with them on the day of Lally's resignation. "I told the team we will move as swiftly as our candidate pool will allow, meaning we will not settle for anything less than a great fit but we will also not be waiting around for the dust to settle."

Not settling is a key component of the successful formula Goff hopes to maintain in this time which will serve as a test for the Mules. With that in mind, he does have an idea of the type of person he would like to fill the interim roll. "Our new interim head coach should be someone who is passionate about wrestling and is heavily invested in the personal development of our student athletes," said Goff. Cerminara had a lot of similar views regarding the qualities he thinks are important for future coaches of the program to possess. He is personally looking for a coach who is "engaged and ready to take our program to the top of the NCAA."

Another measure the athletic department will take to ensure a proper fit for the coaching vacancy is involving the current program. "Members of the team will have the opportunity to meet candidates and provide feedback," said Goff.

The PR release on Muhlenberg's athletics website opens the statement acknowledging "The up-and-coming Muhlenberg College wrestling program is seeking a new head coach," and up-and-coming they are. Under Lally's tenure, which started in 2014, the Mules have had an uptick. In Lally's first season, they improved three places in the Centennial Conference standings. They continued to grow in the 2015-16 season, having one of the largest teams in the programs history, and also taking an in-season trip to the Citrus Duels in Florida, the first trip of its kind. Fast forward one more year to 2016-17 and the Mules won 10 duel matches, the most in 14 seasons.

Looking further into the future, the move to name an interim head coach shows that the Mules are willing to wait to find the right long-term fit. As Goff mentioned, Muhlenberg is not willing to settle. "We have a tremendous group of young men who have worked hard to rebuild our program," said Goff.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

SPORTS

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Hnatkowsky learned from the best

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Michael Hnatkowsky '21, had a stellar first career start, earning him Centennial Conference Player of the Week.

By Alex Horowitz
Sports Editor

While most incoming freshman students spent their summer working, hanging out with friends and getting ready for college, Michael Hnatkowsky '21 spent his time with one of today's best quarterbacks in the National Football League.

The new Mules starting quarterback casually explained to me that he spent his Fourth of July weekend with current Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan. Both are alumni of the William Penn Charter High School, where each started as quarterback during their respective times at the school. Hnatkowsky recently earned national recognition when he bested school records for both passing yards and touchdowns. These records were previously held by the man who fell just short of a Super Bowl championship this past February. In his four years at William Penn, Hnatkowsky threw for 6,172 yards and 60 touchdowns, both marks that bested those of Ryan's.

Following a stellar high school career, Hnatkowsky knew that he wanted to continue his career on the gridiron as it came time to select a college. Despite being a standout athlete in football, basketball and track during his time at William Penn Charter, football was the only sport he truly considered playing at the collegiate level. In addition to looking at Muhlenberg, he also considered playing football at Kutztown University and Bloomsburg University. However, he knew that Muhlenberg was the right fit for him for a number of reasons.

"Having teammates like Savant and Stickney have really helped me adjust to playing at Muhlenberg and just adjusting to a new role now as the starting quarterback"

"First and foremost, I wanted to come to Muhlenberg for its great education. I also noticed that they had a very strong football program, so that was very appealing to me as well," said Hnatkowsky. "I also just felt like home when I visited Muhlenberg, especially after meeting with Coach Donnelly."

Now that the Philadelphia, Pa. native has assumed the role of the Mules' starting quarterback he has a lot to learn. He immediately noticed that the style

SEE FOOTBALL | PAGE 10

Lally taps out with season approaching

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

This week the Muhlenberg athletics department was stunned by the resignation of Wrestling Coach, Shaun Lally. The resignation was officially made public by a PR release on the Muhlenberg Athletics website on Sept. 29. It also is less than three weeks before the team starts their preseason and is allowed to begin their official practice, and just over a month until the team has their first meet of the season on Saturday, Nov. 4.

"Because our first practice is less than two weeks away, we are leaning heavily toward naming an interim head coach who will work with Coach Blanco and Coach Drake to run the program for the 2017-18 season," said Director of Athletics Corey Goff. "We will conduct a more thorough search for a full-time head coach in the spring," added Goff. As mentioned, for the meantime the program will be run by assistant coaches Sonnieboy Blanco and Andrew Drake. Blanco was recently hired as an assistant after graduating in the spring of 2017 and compiling an impressive resume on the mat for Washington and Jefferson. Drake has been with the Mules' wrestling program since the 2014-15 season, when Lally was hired.

Details are still unclear as to the specifics of why Lally resigned, but one thing that is quite clear was that this move was quite unexpected. "[The resignation was] very much a surprise to us," said Goff. Administration weren't the only ones surprised by the move either. Gennaro Cerminara '19, shared Goff's reaction. "There was a bit of shock among team members. Many were questioning why he had left and why he left so close to the season," said Cerminara, who earned a bronze medal in the 197 weight class at the 2016-17 Centennial Conference Championships.

Cerminara says that even though the resignation was a surprise to the team,

SEE WRESTLING | PAGE 11

Football

M VS UC

Sat. Oct. 7 at 1:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

Men's Soccer

M VS G

Sat. Oct 7 at 7:00 pm
Varsity Field

Field Hockey

M VS UC

Wed. Oct. 11 at 7:30 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

Men's Golf

John Makuvek Cup

Thurs. Oct. 12 at 12:30
Lehigh Country Club

Men's & Women's Cross Country Gettysburg Invitational

Sat. Oct 14. Men at 10:30 am, Women at 11:30 am
@Gettysburg, PA

Volleyball

M VS G
M VS CLARKSON

Sat. Oct. 14 at 12:00 pm & 4:00 pm
Memorial Hall

Women's Soccer

M VS G

Sat. Oct. 14 at 7:00 pm
Varsity Field

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community Since 1883

The Muhlenberg Weekly

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017
VOLUME CXL, ISSUE 5

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg College Athletics

Remembering Donnelly

"We lost a good friend, man and husband, a great football coach."

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Small staff, big task

With only four members on staff, the Office of Disability Services handles increasing demand

By Ian Adler
News Editor

At the time of their establishment 13 years ago, the Office of Disability Services (ODS) facilitated 625 total appointments for students to receive accommodated testing. Last year, that number nearly tripled to just shy of 2,000. But with only one support and three professional staff members, can they keep up with current, and future, demand?

"We are the central office that does all the determination of disabilities and makes decisions about accommodations with the student," said Pamela Moschini, Director of Disability Services. "Every student, regardless of what their disability is, comes through this office first."

The structure of ODS differs from most other colleges, according to Moschini, in that they cover any learning disability, mental health or chronic medical condition. This broad coverage, in addition to a recent increase in the availability of higher education, have led to a dramatic rise in the amount of accommodations needed by students.

Students' accommodations are determined by an Individual Accommodation Plan which is based on an interview and profile evaluation and review process. ODS staff meet individually with each student, for each class that they need an accommodation for, in order to ensure accommodations are legitimate and justified.

With so many different avenues of classroom support available, such as assisted notetaking, computer aids and audio recording, the issue of students taking advantage of said accommodations comes into play. However, both Moschini and professors have found little to no instances of abuse or infraction.

"The people who can demonstrate to ODS that they need to use a computer if they're going to retain the material are usually really good students, so it's not a problem," said Professor of Philosophy Dr. Ted Schick, a practitioner of the classroom-computer ban for non-accommodated students.

Communication between ODS and professors relies mainly on the students who need accommodations. Informing

see **ODS** | page 6

My unspoken debt

Addressing the stigma of financing and belonging at a private college

By Val Weisler
Staff Writer

I was supposed to write this article three weeks ago. But every time I sat down to write it, I would be enveloped by intense fear. I am a pretty open book; in the first five minutes of meeting me, I'll probably already tell you that I'm gay, I am way too excited over any animal, I get anxious if I don't know somebody's name and I'm really damn passionate about education. But there is a part of me that I have kept hidden since I stepped foot on this campus. I am a low-income student and the odds were against me going to college. My parents separated my freshman year of high school and my mother was the only financial support for me and my brother for the past five years. She raised us and supported us on her own.

see **Unspoken Debt** | page 4

Editorial

Evidence vs. effects: implications of the journalistic process

On Oct. 5, Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey published an article in The New York Times detailing decades of rape and sexual assault allegations against Harvey Weinstein. A name that should be familiar in the Hollywood sphere, Weinstein is a film producer and co-founder of Miramax Films and The Weinstein Company, which is responsible for films such as "Pulp Fiction," "The King's Speech" and "Good Will Hunting."

Weinstein's career and reputation have rightfully been destroyed. No formal charges have been filed as of publication, but Weinstein was terminated from his own company and ousted from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. When the most recent article finally broke, up-and-coming actresses at the time who have now become household names — Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow — were among those who came forward.

In light of these revelations, hundred of thousands of people have begun to use #MeToo to give people the sense of the magnitude of the issue, an idea put forward by Alyssa Milano on Twitter. Women — and men — listened to her rally cry and sacrificed their privacy to move a necessary dialogue to the forefront of the public eye. Their stories are harrowing, but unfortunately these stories are not the first.

In a 30-year pattern of abuse that included extensive threats and even violence, Weinstein continuously got away with his crimes. Rumors of his sexual harassment and assault were known as one of Hollywood's worst kept secrets. The New York Times and The New Yorker struggled to produce enough evidence to publish a story in the past.

For this case, the journalistic process delayed public knowledge of Weinstein's extensive and ongoing harassment. When handling sensitive, and possibly incriminating, cases such as these, the process is more important than the result. While The New York Times and The New Yorker took years to develop professional and substantiated articles, people have questioned the ethics behind keeping stories like these under wraps while facts are being gathered.

Crimes like Weinstein's should have been revealed decades ago, before more women were victimized

Crimes like Weinstein's should have been revealed decades ago, before more women were victimized. Whether or not an article published earlier would've stopped further harassment will always be an issue. But doing that and not having enough information to back up accusations leads to bigger problems, both legally and reputationally.

Weinstein's downfall is a public example of what happens when crimes like this are not ignored. Journalists at two respected newspapers took the time to invest in the issue and investigate it properly, giving a voice to those who for decades had remained silent.

As a student publication responsible for ensuring that voices of the Muhlenberg community are heard, we will not shy away from publishing stories that make people uncomfortable.

From the Editorial Board of
The Muhlenberg Weekly

Why I won't vaccinate my kids

By Will Wamser
Senior Staff Writer

Now, before I explain my reasoning for not vaccinating my kids and why I do not regret it, let me just say that in our current day, there is an inclination to make everything political. But not everything is political, some things are just true; facts are facts even if you disagree with them. Facts cannot be debated and the fact is that I am right in not vaccinating my kids. And I implore every single one of you reading this to read it with a clear mind and leave all judgement till all has been said and done. If you come into this article already decided that I am wrong, then you may as well just not read, but if you are willing to hear me out, I just might change what you think of me not vaccinating my kids. If you truly listen to me, you may just end up seeing me a hero for not vaccinating my kids.

To set the record straight I don't want them to get sick, I just don't care whether or not they do get sick

Allow me to introduce myself and my family. My name is Will, I have 2 daughters and a son, all of them illegitimate. Brenda is 16, she loves jazz and computers. Randy is 13, all he cares about is science and diet Coke. And finally, Martha, my youngest, who is 11 years old and is always reading and beatboxing, but never at the same time and she refuses to tell me why. We don't have much in this world, but we make do with what we have. Brenda, Randy and Martha are all I have in this world and I know I am in the right for not vaccinating them. At this point you must be thinking "Will, we get it, you love your kids and you didn't vaccinate them, but why didn't you?" First off, I never said I love them. And secondly, I didn't vaccinate my kids because I hate my kids.

I can tell I lost a lot of you there, but please let me explain, my kids freaking suck. They are so annoying and can't just hang out. Take Brenda for example: she listens to jazz all the time. I am not exaggerating when I say all the time. I'm sure you are judging me right now, but a man can only take so many hours of scat solos. Also, there are no two ways about it, the kid is a dud. She keeps telling me she's a "hacker," so I think you get my point about her. And then there is Randy, all he cares about is science, like a nerd would. A NERD. Do you know how hard it is for a jock like me to live with a fricking nerd? It's the worst, all I want to do is give him a swirly but I can't because I'm his 'dad' and should 'care' about 'him.' And with Martha, she's fine. I really don't have anything wrong with her; she's nothing great but she's not bad, just okay, but by the time she came I already didn't vaccinate Brenda or Randy so I kind of had to not vaccinate Martha either. So there it is, I didn't vaccinate them because they suck and, honestly, they aren't very cool either.

Now, just to set the record straight, I don't want them to get sick, I just don't care whether or not they do get sick. I weighed the pros and cons, the pros being that my kids would be immune to diseases and that they wouldn't accidently spread those diseases to someone with a lower immune system for whom the disease may be fatal, and then with the cons being that I would have to take them to doctor's office and it would be a whole thing. So, I figured it wasn't worth it, and I was right. None of my kids have died from measles yet, and that proves my point. Look, I'm not a monster, I'm just a guy who doesn't care about the wellbeing of his children or the wellbeing of any children they may come in contact with, does that make me a bad person? Yes, yes it does. Hit me up on Facebook if you want to tell me how much I convinced you that I am a hero and am right for not vaccinating my losers for kids.

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Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author. Members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg. The Muhlenberg Weekly reserves the right to edit all pieces for grammatical, spacing, and legal purposes. All submissions must be signed by respective writer(s). The Editor-in-Chief has final jurisdiction on whether a Letter to the Editor or article is printed. Deadline for submission is Monday preceding publication by 7:00 p.m.

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about erros in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

The Muhlenberg Weekly is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press.

A Letter From the Editor:

What happens when you get a letter from the KKK?

To our readers:

Last week, The Muhlenberg Weekly received an unsolicited letter in the mail appearing to be from the Ku Klux Klan. College newspapers across the country, from several City University of New York schools to the The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Post, have received identical letters to ours.

While we could have ignored the letter altogether, I felt it was important to address it in some public manner – especially given the recent events on our campus and the rise of white nationalism in our country. And so, I want to take this opportunity to explain why this letter was so worrying.

In the second part of the letter, the author suggested that we should look into a recent piece of "harmful literature" that he claims was written solely to "agitate the college educated who always think they have a better answer for the woes of the world." He encourages us – and by extension you, our readers – to express our disapproval of this book to Google and the author.

We take our role as a journalistic 'watchdog' very seriously. It is our responsibility to filter out manipulative and harmful information so that you can be assured that what you read in our newspaper is of value.

There are many individuals and groups attempting to determine what constitutes 'news,' and while we wholeheartedly encourage story pitches, this was very different. This letter served as another reminder to us of the importance of serving the best interests of the Muhlenberg community – and not those of an extremist hate group nefariously attempting to push their agenda on us. I hope that any other college newspaper that received this letter would join us in that sentiment.

I would like to reiterate our Op/Ed and Letter to the Editor policies: We encourage submissions from anyone in the campus community wishing to weigh in on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, timely or otherwise. As both our Editorial Board and Op/Ed columns have addressed several times, we support the right for a variety of perspectives to be heard – especially on a campus like ours that is decidedly liberal-leaning. That said, The Weekly does not permit the publication of hate speech in submissions or within the comment section of articles on our website.

We never have and we never will.

Gregory Kantor
Editor-in-Chief

Finding common ground through freedom of speech

By Jordan Zucker
Contributing Writer

The Constitution of the United States of America, signed into law in 1789, is considered to be the foundation of American Government and is the supreme law of the land. While it has been amended multiple times in its 228 year existence, its basic principles have been unaltered since its conception.

The First Amendment, arguably the most important in the entire document, reflects several freedoms which the founding fathers thought were essential in order to preserve a free and fair society. The First Amendment, according to the Cornell Law School, "guarantees freedoms concerning religion, expression, assembly and the right to petition." Additionally, it restricts Congress from favoring one religion over another, and prevents the government from writing laws which restrict "the press or the rights of individuals to speak freely."

Public schools, for many years, have enjoyed the benefits and freedoms of the constitution since they are funded by the U.S. Government, states, and local municipalities. Private schools, funded by students and donors, are essentially allowed to write their own rules of conduct and freedom of speech separate from the laws of the Constitution. The Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review organization notes, "much of the arguments over the proper scope of First Amendment protection on private campuses are moral or philosophical questions, rather than strictly legal ones."

Thus, private colleges are more likely to use their own judgement when weighing the liberty of their students versus protecting those who are affected by hate speech.

In light of the issue of freedom of speech, I saw a debate occur on the Muhlenberg Facebook page after a group of alumni students expressed their disdain for Black Lives Matter Canada speaker Janaya Khan, who was recently invited onto our campus. Some of these comments expressed embarrassment, regret and hopelessness for our college, while other alumni and current students fought back to praise their speech, which promoted racial equality and activism. After discussing this online debate in three of my classes, multiple flyers went up around school protesting the BLM movement and highlighting statistics about black crime and police officers being targeted nationwide. This post on Facebook has subsequently been deleted and all traces of the conversation erased.

I believe that both Janaya Khan's overarching message and the flyer distributed around campus have equally important messages which need to be heard by all students on campus. It is important to note that both sides of the story have merit, and explain why said students took the sides that they did.

On July 10, 2016, a dashboard camera clip was released by the Cobb County Police department in Georgia, when officer Lt. Greg Abbott pulled over a white woman during a traffic stop. In the clip, officer Abbott is recorded reassuring the woman, "Remember, we only kill black people. Yeah. We only kill black people, right?"

To a student who supported Khan's speech on campus, this clip reflects the deeply rooted racism and bigotry which still exists in police departments nationwide today. Furthermore, this recording would likely cause feelings of anger and distrust of American police officers, specifically for those students who are of color.

In another instance, during a Black Lives Matter rally in St. Paul Minnesota, protesters were heard chanting, "Pigs in a blanket, fry 'em like bacon." St. Paul Police Federation President Dave Titus noted, "I don't think chanting or singing what's basically promoting killing police officers is peaceful." A student or alumni could possibly use this example to denounce BLM, and present the group as an organization which desires to see police officers "eliminated" from our streets.

Students on campus need to recognize that both supporters and detractors of BLM need to have conversations about race, equality and the role of police departments in order to find common ground on issues which have become largely politicized. It is reasonable to suggest that both groups have their own interests in preserving equality and peace in the land, while simultaneously being able to make progress on issues which still plague our country. If we do not have these conversations on campus, we will never move over the mountains of partisanship and find solutions which benefit both those who support Black Lives Matter and those who are against it.

I support students who can weigh the arguments made by Janaya Khan and those who are concerned over the lives of police officers to find common policy goals which will facilitate real change. Pushback and debate should be normal behaviors of college students, but I do not agree with the decision to delete the original posts which clearly ignited an important conversation that needs to be had. Step outside of your comfort zone, and confront those who disagree with you because you might just learn something you didn't know.

Discrediting and talking down to those who do not agree with you only stokes flames of distrust and entrenches the opinions of others you are trying to change. For both students and alumni, have an open mind and you will find the answers which are necessary to change this country for good.

Boca Grande
breakfast burrito
Muhlenberg
GENERAL'S QUARTERS
new

Campus Safety Notes

Monday, October 9
Panic Alarm - 12:03 a.m.
In Hillel House, there was a report of a panic button alarm. Upon arrival, the area was checked, and no one was found in the building.

Harassment - 3:00 p.m.
In Ettinger Hall, Third Floor, there was a report of posted flyers. The investigation is to continue.

Sick Student - 8:16 p.m.
In Brown Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Student Health Services was notified, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Sick Student - 10:00 p.m.
In Brown Hall, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Tuesday, October 10
Sick Student - 1:19 a.m.
In Prosser Annex, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer**.**

Found Property - 9:56 a.m.
On Chew Street, there was a report of a found wallet. A message was left with the owner to retrieve the wallet at Campus Safety.

Forgery and Counterfeiting - 11:00 a.m.
Off Campus, there was a report of fraudulent checks. The investigation is to continue.

Wednesday, October 11
Disabled Vehicle - 7:15 a.m.
At Martin Luther Hall, there was a report to jump-start a vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer successfully started the vehicle.

Sick Student - 9:20 p.m.
In the Life Sports Center, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Sick Student - 9:25 p.m.
In Taylor Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Friday, October 13
Theft - 11:44 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a theft of a bicycle seat. There are no suspects at this time.

Alcohol Violation - 11:08 p.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. Allentown EMS also responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Property Damage - 11:08 p.m.
In the Prosser Lot, there was a report of minor damage found to a College vehicle. There were scuff marks on the fender, and it is unknown how the damage occurred.

Alcohol Violation - 11:24 p.m.
In Benfer Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and the alcohol was disposed of. A referral was made to the Dean of Students office.

Harassment - 11:50 p.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of harassment. The investigation is to continue.

Saturday, October 14
Harassment - 2:00 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of harassment. Residential Services was notified.

Injured Visitor - 2:20 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of an injured visitor. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the individual refused further treatment or transport.

Sick Student - 3:10 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported by a Campus Safety Officer.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 9:37 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm from a faulty detector. Simplex was notified to respond to replace the detector.

Medical Transport - 9:46 p.m.
In Taylor Hall, there was a report to transport a student to the hospital. The transport was completed by a Campus Safety Officer.

Noise Complaint - 11:15 p.m.
At 437 North 23rd Street, there was a report of a noise complaint. The occupants were identified and spoken to. There was no further incident.

Sunday, October 15
Fire Alarm Sounding - 12:29 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm from a faulty detector. The system was silenced and reset.

Sick Student - 11:24 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Monday, October 16
Sick Student - 7:33 a.m.
In the Life Sports Center basement, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the Health Center by a Campus Safety Officer.

Parking - 11:07 a.m.
At the Front Drive, there was a report of a vehicle illegally parked with an excessive amount of tickets.

The Weekly Staff wishes everyone a safe and happy weekend!

FROM **UNSPOKEN DEBT**
PAGE 1

I remember the moment my mom told me. I was sitting at our kitchen table the summer before senior year, planning my first college visit. She came over and sighed and, refusing to look me in the eye, told me that she did not want me to get my hopes up, so I shouldn't apply to college. Community college was the best we could do.

I shook my head and sobbed and begged her to let me try. I spent hours every day applying to scholarships and emailing schools and writing essays and filling out FAFSA.

When I got enough financial aid to go to Muhlenberg, I was naive enough to think that that was it, that I would go to college and my low-income status would stay at home. As the girls on my floor got Brandy Melville packages and talked about their summer homes, I realized there were not many of me, or at least not many that talked about it.

I would bike to babysitting gigs and dog-walking jobs. People would ask, how did you find them? And I'd shrug and smile because I didn't want to say the truth; I didn't want anyone to know that I put flyers in mailboxes and asked local families so I could have money to pay for books, clothes and to go out with friends.

I became comfortable conveniently not mentioning my situation, until it got to the point where even my closest friends didn't know.

But the secret slowly suffocated me. The amount of side gigs I did started to get people wondering and other things slipped too. I remember one day last year, I told a friend I was going to get a haircut at the Mastercuts in the mall. She laughed in my face and said with exaggeration, "The mall? You're gonna get a haircut at the mall? Ha! Go to a salon." She meant well but her comment hit me like a bullet. I couldn't afford anything more than the $23 'Wash, Cut and Dry' Special and I wanted so badly to tell her, but I swallowed my shame and stayed silent.

As the year went on, I realized I could not spend my college career with my low-income status as the man behind the curtain that no one saw. I slowly started telling my friends and even became open with professors, and I started to find others. Friends shared that they too were juggling jobs or paying their own tuition checks, here on financial aid and still struggling. The more I talked to others, the more the stigma of low-income status at Muhlenberg and so many other college campuses became apparent.

A female student who wishes to remain anonymous shared, "As I was applying to college I was not sure exactly what to do, while my friends were visiting 20 or 30 colleges across the northeast. I visited about five colleges and two of them, I only visited the week that my decision had to be made. I wanted to apply to some colleges and couldn't because they required SAT subject tests that I couldn't afford to take."

"Now that I am in college it is very difficult because I work two jobs, one campus and one off campus, while trying to maintain good grades, a social life and participate in clubs and other activities. Also, despite working these jobs, it doesn't even begin to cover the costs of college. When I graduate from Muhlenberg, I will be at least $100,000 in debt. Instead, this money allows me to buy clothing and go to the movies with my friends."

Deep in the American dream myth, the belief that education is the entry for socioeconomic mobility echoes. In spite of this, colleges now are more divided by wealth than ever.

As the student continues, "Most of the students here do not have to make decisions about post-grad based off of money; instead people can make their decisions based off of what they want to do. Sometimes I lay in bed at night and feel like I might throw up because of how much money I owe."

When low-income students begin their college career, they often struggle to finish for many reasons, but social isolation and alienation can be big factors. The pressure to succeed on the first try feels like a monster under the bed, whispering to you that you don't get a second chance, you better get this right.

"At the end of the day, it is just hard because I fear that if I do not do well, I will not be able to afford life after graduation. Honestly, that is the scariest thing for me."

Although social isolation and alienation are usually the two main obstacles, they are stemmed from the subtler things; the statements of "who they are and where they come from," that challenge the very identity, comfort and right to be here.

If you are a low-income student reading this, I want you to know something: there will be times throughout your years here where you feel like you do not belong. You do.

Digging for answers ... and faulty pipes

By Gregory Shanahan
Contributing Writer

You might have noticed, or heard, the construction work going on outside of Trumbower this past week on your way down Academic Row; the bright orange bulldozer might have caught your attention, but Plant Operations here on campus is more concerned with what's beneath the surface – literally.

Plant Operations, nicknamed "Plant Ops" across campus, covers a multitude of responsibilities, ranging from repairing machinery and planning maintenance on equipment, moving offices around campus, cleaning, painting, HVAC, chemical control of the pool and trimming of shrubs to clearing bird capture areas at Muhlenberg's Biological Field Station in Germansville.

They're also in charge of, particularly in this case, "any and all changes to the physical structure of any building or to any land area of the campus," as their webpage states. Plant Ops is, in essence, responsible for all of the buildings and grounds on campus; you might have seen them putting down mulch, installing an air conditioning unit or driving past in various vehicles.

The Trumbower operation seems sudden and unexpected – what is really going on, and why? Head of Plant Ops, Tim Korn, was able to explain and clear up some of the mystery about the abrupt, and seemingly quite serious, procedure.

"The work outside of Trumbower was an emergency repair to a sewer line. We had a few back-ups in the basement ladies' room that led us to camera the lines and determine that tree roots were penetrating the lateral line going to the main sewer line," Korn said.

"A couple of weeks ago we did our best to clear it in hopes to suspend the work until fall break when there would be an opportunity to shut down the building's bathrooms to replace the line," Korn added. "The project started on Thursday prior to break in order to expose the line so it could be removed and replaced on Monday when there would not be any classes."

Korn's official title here on campus is Muhlenberg's "Facilities Trades and Systems Manager," and was able to describe in depth exactly what the issue was, and how to deal with it.

DAVID BUDNICK/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Due to the growth of tree roots into Trumbower's clay pipes, construction was necessary to replace the aging pipes and ensure plumbing integrity.

"There was 20' of existing 6" terra-cotta pipe, 9' below grade, going to the main sewer from the building that had three open joints where the roots were restricting flow."

Plant Ops is also extremely involved in sustainability issues here on campus, and help keep Muhlenberg environmentally friendly by always seeking more ways to create a greener campus. In accordance with 'Berg's Healthy Environment Policy, "The Plant Operations staff is trained to respond to all environmental concerns and has the ability to provide service up to a certain level of exposure."

In fact, Plant Ops often works alongside the Office of Campus Sustainability, as well as student environmental groups, to continue to improve issues such as the campus's energy and/or water sustainability. Solar panels installed on the roof of Seegers Union that have helped avoid 23,164.92 kg of CO2 being released into the air, and the student-initiated "Just Tap It!" water systems all across campus that have reduced water bottle consumption are just two of the many sustainable initiatives that Plant Ops has assisted in taking over the past few years.

Thankfully, the mission was a success, making the ladies' room of Trumbower's basement safe to use once again. Korn stated, "At this point the work was a success and today would have been the final phase if the weather would cooperate so we could topsoil and seed." From saving the world to saving students' bladders, Plant Ops helps make Muhlenberg a better campus one step at a time.

National headlines continue the conversation

Lee Kolbe and several students weigh in on Title IX's impact, presence and potential improvements

By Melissa Reph
and Chloe Gravereaux

Recent events regarding sexual harassment and assault in Hollywood are bringing these issues into the limelight – and Muhlenberg is no exception. Title IX, a law which prohibits discrimination based on sex in federally funded institutions and requires schools to deal with any reports of sexual violence. However, is Title IX really enough to make people feel safe from sexual assault?

The law creates a framework under which a school must determine if a report of assault or harassment qualify under Title IX. That isn't to say, explained Lee Kolbe, Muhlenberg's Title IX Coordinator, that students should not come forward with supposed cases for fear that theirs is not "severe" enough.

"We look into everything and sometimes there's informal ways we can address something," said Kolbe, adding that speaking with the student and possibly identifying and speaking with the perpetrator is something that she is willing to do.

If an incident is deemed "persistent or pervasive," the case can be pushed for further investigation and possibly a trial, Kolbe explained.

"A one-off incident, if it's not severe, would not rise to the level of harassment under Title IX," Kolbe said. Although if the incident impacts where the student feels safe and comfortable, then there is the ability to launch an investigation and to possibly move forward with a trial-- should the student wish to pursue that option.

In addition to reporting any incidents to Kolbe, students can also contact the Counseling Center, one of the Chaplains or someone on the Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART). All of these, Kolbe said, are a good first step. The Counseling Center, Chaplains and SART all provide confidentiality and, unlike other faculty and staff on campus, do not need to report the incident to Kolbe.

Faculty members of SART include Cynthia Amaya-Santiago, Francesca Coppa, Lanethea Matthews-Schultz, Lindsay Porembo, Kimberly Stolarik and Jeremy Teissere. Kolbe explained that she is "looking to expand [SART's] role" and give them further training to provide support for students, both victims and the accused.

"The system is inherently broken"

While there are resources for students who feel they have been sexually assaulted or harassed, some students do not necessarily feel that is enough. One female student who wished to remain anonymous expressed her belief that "the system is inherently broken."

The fact that there's people on campus who"don't have the impulse control" to prevent sexual assault, she added, is "just not okay."

Teaching consent, she added, is one way to reduce cases of sexual assault.

"People don't understand that consent needs to be continuous rather than a one time thing," she said, adding that this lesson should be included in the College's prevention education.

A male student who also wished to remain anonymous expressed his concern for prevention education on campus as well.

"I don't really remember anything about it," he said. He explained that he's "certainly been made aware of the issue through [his] years here" but never from the school itself, rather stories from friends. He added that he thinks Muhlenberg should continue prevention education beyond just the freshmen fitness and wellness classes.

"Some people may be annoyed to hear it again and again," he said, "but I think it's needed."

Anne Marie Stevens, the new Director of Prevention Education, explained that she is working to expand education beyond freshman year. Sexual Assault Awareness Month is observed every April, explained Stevens, and is meant to educate individuals and to promote awareness.

In the past, Muhlenberg has hosted events such as "Take Back the Night" in order to raise sexual assault awareness, as well as bringing keynote speakers such as Lacey Green and Beverly Gooden to campus last April. They also decorated the Light Lounge with posters from the Consent is Sexy campaign, which received severe backlash from students for trivializing the act of asking permission.

So what can students can do to help raise awareness about sexual assault and harassment?

"Be informed, attend prevention education programs, bring a friend or two, engage in dialogue, work to change the culture as well as policies on campuses, in your communities, locally and nationally and speak up when possible," said Stevens. "There is much work to be done. We can start by believing and supporting survivors. It takes everyone."

The female student mentioned earlier agreed. The prevention of non-consensual sex, she explained, "is on men as much as it is on women."

International Week Schedule

Thursday
October 19th
Javier Avila's
"The Trouble with my Name."
7-9 p.m. Event Space

Sunday
October 22nd
Katherine Luther,
a play by alumni John Trump
4-5:30 p.m. John's Lutheran Church
Transportation at 3:30

Monday
October 23rd
Decorating and raising the International Week banner
4-6 p.m. Parents Plaza
International Poetry Night
7-9 p.m. Fireside Lounge

Tuesday
October 24th
International Club fundraising bake sale
12-7 p.m. Seegers Union
Screening of "Embrace of the Serpent"
7 p.m. Theater 154

Wednesday
October 25th
International Week Talent Show and International Dinner
5-8 p.m. Seegers Event Space
& Wood Dining Commons

Thursday
October 26th
Virtual international video conference
12:30-2 p.m. Seegers Event Space
Center for Ethics speaker Stephen Prothero
7 p.m. Miller Forum

Events hosted representing multicultural life

BY SYDNEY COPLIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Muhlenberg has many events throughout the school year dedicated to promoting activism and diversity. For the next few weeks, and continuing on into next semester, various affinity groups across campus will continue their campaigns to represent multicultural life.

International Week, October 19-26

International Week will begin on Thursday Oct. 19, from 7-9 p.m. in Seegers Event Space, where Comedian Javier Avila will present "The Trouble with my Name." A few days later, on Sunday Oct. 22 from 4-5:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, Muhlenberg College Theatre students will perform "Katherine Luther," a play by alumni John Trump. Transportation will be provided from the CA at 3:30 p.m.

Monday Oct. 23 will hold two separate events. First, in Parents Plaza from 4-6 p.m., there will be an International Week banner decorating and raising. Later on, from 7-9 p.m. in Fireside Lounge, International Poetry Night will take place.

Tuesday Oct. 24 will start at Seegers Union, with International Club fundraising bake sales from 12-7 p.m. Groups that will be selling the baked goods will include the Italian Club, International Students Association, French Club, Spanish Club and Russian Club. When the bake sales end at 7 p.m., there will be a screening of the Colombian film "Embrace of the Serpent" at Theatre 154. Tickets will be $8 with a Muhlenberg school ID.

Wednesday Oct. 25 will have a virtual panel using Zoom, a video conferencing service. The panel, featuring international alumni and students, will take place in Seegers Event Space from 12:30-2 p.m. At 7 p.m. that same day, the Center for Ethics will hold an event in Miller Forum, where speaker Stephen Prothero will present "A Cloud of Unknown in American Religion and Politics."

The week will conclude on Thursday Oct. 26 from 5-8 p.m., where an International Week Talent Show and international dinner will take place in Seegers Event space and Wood Dining Commons, respectively.

Stonewall Day, Date TBA

This day will commemorate the uprising that took place on the evening of June 29, 1969 at Stonewall Inn, a gay club in New York City. The LGBTQ+ movement began to grow momentum after Stonewall, and became an important mark in its history. For this day, which is set to take place by the end of the semester, students will take a trip to the club in NYC, and then come back to campus for a drag show.

Kpop Zumba, Date TBA

The Asian American Association will sponsor this event, which will involve the fitness dance workout of Zumba to the rhythm of Kpop music. For those who are are not familiar with Kpop, it is a genre of music that originated in South Korea, which mainly incorporates the feeling of "pop" or popular music. Zumba is a dynamic dance workout routine, and this specific event will use Kpop as the music for the dancing.

Fundraiser and Trip to Philadelphia Chinatown, Date TBA

The Asian American Association also plans for a fundraiser, as well as a trip to Philadelphia. The fundraiser will be for the group's trip to the East Coast Asian American Student Union. As for the Philadelphia trip, students will eat dinner in the city's Chinatown, and possibly go to karaoke.

Queer Week, Date TBA

Queer Week, which is set to take place next semester, will be filled with a week of different programs including: keynote speakers, Stonewall buses, fundraisers, LGBTQ+ friendly sex ed and movie screenings. Students for Queer Advocacy (SQuAD), the main sponsor of the program, will be partnering with other affinity groups to mutually discuss topics of important issues.

Alliance Week, Date TBA

Alliance Week, which will take place next semester, will incorporate a week of programming involving education on various marginalized groups. Different affinity groups will come together to create this week of awareness.

Be sure to keep an eye out for more information from the Multicultural Center on the specific dates of these events.

FROM **ODS**
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professors of individual needs is primarily the student's responsibility, which can raise some issues according to Emily Hofstetter '18.

"While I might get a letter of accommodation for one of my classes, that alone is rarely enough to satisfy teachers," said Hofstetter in an email interview. "Not because of any fault of ODS, simply because most professors don't understand chronic illness/disability."

Hofstetter is immunocompromised, causing her to sometimes miss up to two weeks of class due to illness. She attributes part of that to professor's emphasis on perfect attendance, saying that it forces "normal students to go to class when they really shouldn't, putting students like [her] at risk."

"Some classes only allow for three (or less) missed days. Total," Hofstetter added. "Even for a healthy person, a simple flu or nasty cold could take up all those days."

Hofstetter also explained that there is a "flexibility in attendance" option on most accommodation plans, but "it's ultimately up to professors, who are not the most knowledgeable, to make the call."

Hofstetter encourages students who might need accommodations to start a dialogue with their professors to provide the most "understanding and academic leeway." However, the dialogue about ODS and invisible/chronic illnesses on campus is not quite at the level Hofstetter and others would like it to be at.

"It actually is harder in some sense for students with learning disabilities because it's not visible," said Professor of Psychology Dr. Laura Edelman. "If you say to someone 'I have an auditory processing disability,' probably to most people that doesn't even mean anything."

Dr. Edelman served for 25 years on the Advisory Board for Academic Support Services, a committee of professors who communicate directly with ODS. They communicate issues to ODS and work to adjust guidelines and/or policies to ensure the best experience for professors, faculty and ODS employees.

A large part of that experience is access to the appropriate facilities for students with accommodated testing needs. While this falls out of the Advisory Board's scope of responsibilities, the issue of space on campus seems to leave ODS as no exception.

"There isn't enough space for all the students who need the accommodations, so then you end up with students in the classroom, which is really hard to make distraction free, and they might have double time but they're supposed to be supervised for that double time," said Dr. Edelman. "It can be a problem for faculty to juggle all of that."

Because it is the responsibility of the students to communicate their needs with professors, booking any sort of appointment well in advance can prove to be difficult with such a full schedule in the office. ODS' policy of students taking initiative to communicate with professors rests on their emphasis of self-advocacy and responsibility according to Nick Blue '20.

"I think because all the students there have some sort of diagnosed disability or challenge, they're really looking for you to kind of advocate for yourself and know that when you leave the Muhlenbubble, it's not what the real world is like," said Blue. "After Muhlenberg, no one is going to be doing that for you."

In addition to preparation and accommodation, Moschini's goal is to increase the availability of regular walk-in hours with a workshop type structure, something the addition of another professional on the staff may aid in.

"We would like to teach students more effectively how to take their own notes rather than how to get a copy of a classmate's notes," said Moschini. "We would like to get more into the actual training of things on a more regular basis because we do it but we have to schedule it in."

"I kind of think part of what students need to be doing here is learning better strategies for dealing with whatever their disability or issue is so that they don't just give up or not do something," added Dr. Edelman, "that they find ways to move forward otherwise we're not doing them any favors sending them out there."

Whether it's sleeping in their offices during finals week to ensure each student can get their testing accommodations handled, providing study tips and advice, helping balance out student's schedules, or approving the use of a service animal, covering ODS' umbrella of responsibilities is certainly no easy feat to match.

"I think that here, it's great because you can be a part of a competitive curriculum and not feel any stigma or shame that you have learning disabilities or receive services through a disability office," said Blue. "If you have any concerns as a student in their office and just want to get the help you need or something's just not right, they're there for you."

Arts & Culture

“Man is least himself when he talks in his own person.
Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth.”
— Oscar Wilde

Sleepless in Parents Plaza:

Arts Marathon brings twenty-four hours of entertainment to campus

By Emma Forgione
Contributing Writer

Eliana Weinfeld/The Muhlenberg Weekly

“I don’t think they realized how awkward it’s going to look performing in our street clothes,” Delaney Wilbur ‘18 said, nervously awaiting the Rocky Horror Picture Show performance later that day. Ah yes, the insomniac’s playground that is Art’s Marathon. Held around the same time every semester, the Muhlenberg Theater Association puts on a 24-hour theater festival to raise money for a specific cause. This semester, the funds went to Dieruff High School Theater. Arts Marathon is a conglomerate of new plays, performance ensembles, a capella groups and some other wild things just thrown in.

Around lunchtime, I was sitting with a group of my friends, all a part of the Rocky Horror Picture Show shadow cast that performs every semester. This year they had been asked to perform in Arts Marathon and lip sync two of the group numbers in the show. However, part of the charm of Rocky is that when the actual show is performed, it starts at 11:30 p.m., all of the cast and attendees dress up in costume — and most of the time everyone is scantily clad, and a lot of people may or may not be extra hyper and giggly and excited to yell sexually explicit profanities at their friends. But this performance was happening at 6:30 p.m. on a Saturday in street clothes in the middle of campus, so it made the performers a bit nervous to be thrown out of their element.

The marathon began at 2 p.m. on this damp Oct. 14 and would end at 2 p.m. the next day. Watchers could come and go as they pleased, as all the groups would perform on the little stage in Parents Plaza, and then moved inside to Java Joe when the sun goes down.

Arts Marathon is a conglomerate of new plays, performance ensembles, a capella groups and some other wild things just thrown in.

Rocky was the first performance I caught on Saturday. It was a little jarring to see them out of their natural state, for I have attended the showing they do every semester I’ve been on campus. The group performed “There’s a Light” and “The Time Warp” — two well known numbers from the popular cult classic. It was a bit odd to see Rocky performed in street clothes in the middle of the day, but the audience seemed to get a kick out of yelling the callouts at the cast nonetheless. “This is just a taste of what you’re gonna get at the real performance on Nov. 3,” Deanna Mayo ‘18, one of the presidents of the group, said.

The performances really picked up once the venue moved inside and the performance ensembles got a chance to shine. Everyone packed themselves into the little couches and chairs of Java Joe to watch MIA, UiP and my one of my favorite groups, To Be Determined, perform. That night, they switched up their musical improv stylings: instead of being accompanied by a piano, the actors performed a musical accompanied by two guitars.

But perhaps the most interesting part of Arts Marathon is what happens in Java Joe at three in the morning. This segment is called open mic, and anyone can go up and do literally anything they want for an audience. This segment was made famous in the past when Sam Narciso, who graduated in 2016, performed a ten-minute monologue entitled “Justice For Sharpay” about Sharpay Evans from the “High School Musical” series. Her performance became so popular that it has become hard for someone else to one-up that open mic. But Rachel Horun ‘19 and Michaela Barczak ‘19 gave her a run for her money when they performed “Rachel gives Michaela a haircut in public.” You heard me correctly. A riveting piece of performance art, the president of the MTA cut the Vice President’s hair in the middle of Java Joe’s. Art is truly evolving these days, folks.

For real, Arts Marathon was superb this year, and most importantly, it raises money for a great cause! I can’t wait to see what happens next time. Who knows, maybe during Arts Marathon 2018, we’ll publically dye Larry Singer’s beard!

Cafe Frais review: An up-and-coming campus hotspot

By Gabrielle Hondorp
Contributing Writer

Walking briskly down the street on one of our first blustery days of the year, I was elated to find a warm glow of light penetrating the damp fall air. The promise of a new off-campus hangout had been taunting me for weeks, so I was elated to find I could finally enter after a week or so of planned detours to inspect progress.

On entering, the place is relatively small, but neat, cozy and clean. The decor, tasteful yet playful, creates an inviting atmosphere. Though the seating is a bit limited, the couches are comfortable, and the large windows that span the front of the shop allow for a street view.

Being from the Hudson Valley in New York myself, I am used to a balance of local and organic fare paired with the sophistication that oozes up from the city. I was pleased to find that Cafe Fraís is a little taste of home.

The menu was a pleasant surprise, hosting a variety of breakfast options ranging from breakfast burritos to greek yogurt parfaits to smoothies. I found myself staring at the menu for a good five minutes in deep debate about what I would have. Ending up with a multigrain breakfast sandwich and coffee, I was content to find that although simple, everything was fresh and of quality.

The smoothies are next on my list to try. Consisting mainly of frozen fruit, it was a pleasant shock to actually find a healthy smoothie without the many sugar-laden additives that usually lurk within the “health” drink. Although I did not order one, I was offered a taste, and it was refreshing and not too sweet. Always eager about the prospect of new smoothie add-ins, I was excited to see a whole list consisting of everything from hemp seeds to spirulina.

The staff is altogether friendly and attentive. With a greeting from just about every one of them as I entered and throughout my time there, I began to feel as if this could be my place, the place where everybody knows my name; this could be my Cheers! Whether that familiarity will come from their conscientious attitudes or the sheer amount of time and money I plan to spend here is up to interpretation.

Ultimately, I am ecstatic about this new addition to our campus life and am confident that it will remain here as a staple for years to come. I wish the best of luck to this new member of community, and I plan to show my support by sitting in my favorite spot (yes, I already have one) and becoming their main consumer of coffee.

From left: director Dr. Chris Jackson, accompanist Vincent Trovato, and performers Carly Dove '18 and Theresa Corinne Wegher-Thompson '20.

Entering the world of the oratorio

Muhlenberg travels through time, exploring various instances of religious passion

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

It is a work among the many with an emphasis on the one: one voice, one thought, one meaning and one essential design. This is one of the ways to describe what was (and remains) the role of the oratorio. An art form that can be traced from Baroque period (about 1600s-1750) to even contemporary time, the oratorio is essentially defined as a large ensemble of voice (and/or orchestra) with select, usually religious, narratives being told through song. Great examples of such works include Bach's "Christmas Oratorio," Handel's "Messiah," and Haydn's "The Creation." On this particular night, Oct. 11, I was given the great pleasure of witnessing various Muhlenberg vocal students perform parts from oratorios across time, including Handel, Bach, Greig and Schubert. Each vocalist took their masterpieces by storm, fully embodying their roles, while also seducing us, the audience, into a complete otherworldly sense of being. We were no longer citizens of pure observation, but instead participants and even characters within the various realms of music and storytelling. A specific performance I would like to dive into is a piece sung by Theresa Corinne Wegher-Thompson '20 titled "Blute nur, du liebes Hurz," which is a part of the "St. Matthew Passion" oratorio by J.S. Bach.

Taking us back in time to between the 17th and 18th centuries, we are presented with a gorgeous Aria written for the soprano, the highest of the four vocal choral parts: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. Normally, pieces such as these are accompanied by a complete orchestra of wind and string instruments to support the vocalist, serving as both a harmonious and rhythmic foundation. In the case of the student recital, the piano served as a wonderful accompaniment by Vincent Trovato.

Diving into the essence of the piece, that is the score versus the vocal technique, the aria begins with the accompaniment — note, it's important to keep in mind that this aria is taking place in the middle of an entire oratorio. The context of this particular piece is that Judas has just sold out the whereabouts of Jesus, betraying him for thirty silver pieces. This aria is in response to this "sudden" reveal. Corinne begins with the phrase "Blute nur, du liebes Herz," which she repeats in an almost canon-like phrasing, consistently descending and ascending, representing the pain and discourse occurring within the story being told. The German is translated to "Bleed on, dear heart;" it is here we have a case of textual painting. Corinne, or this case her character which I'll call "the soprano," is crying over an eternal loss. Both the accompaniment and vocal score express an endless cycle, as if in an ever spinning wheel; this process continues throughout the entire beginning, or A section, of the aria.

We were no longer citizens of pure observation, but instead participants and even characters within the various realms of music and storytelling.

The second part of the aria, the B section, begins in a similar phrase structure ascending by step only to descend by leap on the words: "Ach! Ein kind, das du ersogen" - "Ah! A child, whom you reared." This structure, when it approaches the C section, begins as a study ascent alone, both paralleling and contrasting with its previous descending pattern. It's a similar theme of canon, but rather than that of a constant, it is the passage of time.

"Das an deiner Brust gesogen, droht den Pfleger zu ermorder, denn es ist zur Schlange worden"

Which translates to: "That sucked at thy breast, is threatening to murder its guardian (nurse),

For it has become a serpent."

I was able to get a small interview with Corinne, who kindly shared her thoughts on both her performance of "Blute nur du liebes Herz" as well as the oratorio as a whole.

" ... As I performed this piece I attempted to draw the audience into a sense of deep mourning, confused grief: the moment a mother turns to her God and asks, 'Why?'"

"Bach's 'St. Matthew Passion' is a sacred oratorio translating St. Matthew's gospel of the passion of Christ into music. As an oratorio, the work is not traditionally theatrical like an opera and is intended to be performed in a concert setting. However, that does not mean that the performance of the work should be lifeless or devoid of active storytelling.

I am a huge advocate for the integration of acting techniques into classical vocal performance; not only does this assist the audience in engaging in the piece, but it also offers additional contextual information for the vocalist to explore. Of course, within the realm of classical performance the vocal aptitude of the performer takes precedence, but a sense of character and situation invites the audience into the world of the work.

In 'Blute nur du liebes Herz,' a soprano sings an aria of devastation, grieving the betrayal of Jesus by Judas. The chronological context for the aria is somewhat ambiguous, and the soprano is not specifically named, but what prevails is a sense of foreboding in the face of sacred tragedy. The text also indicates the bereavement of a mother, leading me to speculate that the soprano is an interpretation of the Virgin Mary and her experience in the midst of the Passion.

In my performance, I decided to focus on the idea of Mary's experience as a human mother faced with the sacrifice of her son, the immense pain of knowing the child that you loved and cared for since birth, who is the a gift to the world from God, will be betrayed by a friend and die a horrific death. How can a mother contend with her God in that moment? How can she even begin to experience such knowledge? I don't think I have experienced that kind of pain in my life, but as I performed this piece I attempted to draw the audience into a sense of deep mourning, confused grief: the moment a mother turns to her God and asks, 'Why?'"

The "soprano," who embodies the role of a mother as well as an observer, serves as the narrative voice in this aria. She is the teller and we her witnesses; and with her songful narrative we are all left with songs of thought.

All Photos: Cole Geissler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Embodying the music:

Guest professor provides a new take on an old art form

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

All Photos: Arielle Waxman/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Guest instructor Professor Mira Zakai (left) coaches Carly Dove '18 (right) while Vincent Trovato (center) accompanies on the piano.

Gaining a global perspective on any topic is difficult to achieve whilst confined to a college campus – though we can read as many papers and watch as many films as we'd like (or as our professors require us to), we cannot interact with other ways of thinking directly. Only in special circumstances are perspectives like these given names and faces, embodied within people who can gift students with their knowledge as informed by a non-Muhlenberg history.

On Oct. 12, the Recital Hall became a site of one such exchange of viewpoints. Mira Zakai, a Professor of Music at Tel Aviv University and accomplished opera singer in her own right, taught a guest master class for four Muhlenberg voice students. With her unorthodox, upbeat teaching method, Zakai's exuberance filled each student and observer with her passion for having fun while simultaneously doing important work. Laura Santo '20, one of the four selected students, recalls her experience with Zakai as an eye-opening one.

"It was just a joy to be able to sing for such an experienced woman," Santo said. "I love that Muhlenberg brings in guest artists to lead lessons. As an artist, I feel that one can only benefit from having feedback and training from a new set of ears, and being able to work with someone as accomplished as Mira Zakai is an opportunity to grow and work on your art."

Zakai's method was unlike anything I had seen before. Each student initially sang their piece without direction, following what they had practiced in their lessons in a performance for the crowd of observers, which included voice teachers and students alike. After each singer was finished their first sing-through, however, Zakai talked about the composer and history of their pieces using notes she had assembled beforehand. Eliana Swartz '19, an audience member, was struck by Zakai's skillful intention in providing the background of each piece.

"…[Zakai] spoke about Handel and how nowadays everyone does different ornaments… in Handel's music, and then there are some composers that are around Handel's time which also fall under that, and understanding the music history portion can…help you really connect to the song," said Swartz. "It just makes you more of an educated singer rather than just singing a song, and even though we want to assume that the singer is educated about it, you can't assume [that]."

Zakai maintains that making sure each singer knows their context is one of the keys to viability as a vocalist.

"Read, go to museums…do a lot of research around the music, not in the music. What was the time, what were the artists, what were the painters, the writers?" Zakai said. "I mean, take in a lot of background inspiration and then go back to the music and see how it connects…be true to yourself, and study and invest a lot in knowing your body. [Your body needs] to be in good shape, to be athletic. You have to be on a level of a professional athlete in order to be a singer…I mean, when you have a violin that gets tired, you give it to a violin maker, and he corrects it. Here, there are no [spare] parts."

Zakai herself did not commit to following her passion until she was twenty-eight – after finishing her university education, Zakai pursued a career in opera with a job and family to fall back on should things go awry. Though at first employers "didn't like [her] nose" and thought her "brains were too loud," she eventually found solid footing and made the profession her own, crafting stories to every song she sang and ensuring that every day was a good day.

This philosophy was evident in Zakai's teaching, in which she peppered useful advice with extraordinary candor: "Try something else," she urged Carly Dove '18, "don't think." Bailey Fulginiti '18 was encouraged to "see the sound and feed it all the time." Santo reflects on this whimsical and plaintive technique as one that might be applicable beyond the walls of the Recital Hall.

"I really valued her insight into each of the pieces, but…I also felt that the specific feedback she gave to each singer held important information for most (if not all) singers, and was grateful I got to hear what she said to my fellow singers," said Santo. "For example, when she had Carly [Dove] skip during her song to release tension and trust her body, or when she had Shelby [MacPhail '18] speak through her lyrics, I felt that I could definitely apply those techniques to my own practice to improve my singing."

As the observers watched on, Zakai's tips became actively embodied within each student she taught. When Dove let go of all convention and twirled around the stage while singing, sometimes joined by Zakai, her joyful tune filled the entire hall with a new musicality. She truly allowed the song to take her where it wanted to go, her voice flourishing as she set it free. It was a magical moment that was mirrored in one way or another by each student in turn, each with their own areas of improvement and triumph. Being able to openly watch this experimentation and eventual success was an invaluable experience for all who observed, including Swartz.

"[It's important that events like these are open to everyone] so that we can understand a wide scope of music," Swartz said. "I feel like a lot of people can go to a capella concerts, and that's great, that's, like, one form, but if an opera workshop is open to people that may be interested, or teachers encourage their students to go, then you're just getting more culture."

The intersections of different forms of work are what make guest speakers integral to a well-rounded educational experience not only in the music field (which recently enjoyed not only a visit from Zakai, but also from jazz group Michael Sarian and the Chabones), but also in the general sphere of academia. Providing a platform from which different points of view can contribute to a new and exciting conversation about any number of topics is what can make the difference between staying stagnant and moving – or, as Zakai might suggest, dancing – forward.

Above: Zakai and Laura Santo '20 (right) share a smile as they work through a piece. Right: Zakai discusses the background of a musical work.

Mike “Duke” Donnelly

Celebrating the man who made Muhlenberg football

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenbeg College Athletics

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

It was a hot and sticky day, typical of the valley in July, and Mike Donnelly sat in his office rearranging the possible offensive and defensive lines he’d use during preseason. He’d started off the day sitting on one of the incumbent bikes in the cardio loft, reading a history book, as so many had seen him do. Now he talked about his sport and seconds into the interview he was detailing each player’s contribution to the team, the pride in his recruits shining through.

And then he began to discuss another game — a battle in hospitals rather than on the gridiron.

He unabashedly delved into the details of his treatment while tucking his catheter into a white bandage hidden under his shirt.

“They give you your numbers,” said Donnelly. “It becomes a game. So for example, this is my hemoglobin and those are the reference numbers. If it’s low and they tell me I need a transfusion for something, five hours. If not, you walk right out.”

He analyzed each number like he had his players minutes before. Everything he said led back to football, the thing he knew best and what got him through his trips to Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y.

Donnelly, who most people called Duke, died on Oct. 4 of complications from his battle with acute monocytic leukemia. He is survived by his wife, Beth, and children, Lauren and Brendan. He was 65 years old.

Two weeks ago, just days after learning of their head coach’s passing, the one hundred players that make up Muhlenberg’s football team made the decision to play, because that’s what he would’ve wanted. The team wanted to win all its games for the winningest coach in Muhlenberg history, but, with the realization that he would not return to the sideline, the sense of urgency was greater. So they did what their coach had taught them — dig in, find a way to win. And they did, beating the undefeated Ursinus College Bears 21-14. One more win to add to his record.

Winning wasn’t everything to Mike “Duke” Donnelly.

But football was.

One visit to his office would prove that. On his shelves sat predictable items of sentimental value to a football coach: a watch sitting in a cushioned box labeled “there’s no substitute for victory,” his first Muhlenberg career win ball balanced next to his 100th win ball and, proudly displayed at center, his first shutout football. The 1940s Tobacco Bowl trophy, nearly as tall as his desk, gathers dust on the floor. Hanging above the magnetic board that displays the names of each of his players are drawings given to Donnelly by different children, his own family and fans of the program. The ledge of the window overlooking Frank Marino Field is lined with plaques and pictures. All of it, one way or another, highlights some memorable moment of his 21 years at Muhlenberg and 41 years as a coach.

Winning wasn’t everything to Mike “Duke” Donnelly. But football was.

Donnelly’s career ranged from high school to Division I programs. He coached at Albany, East Stroudsburg, Rensselaer, Ithaca, Lafayette, Buffalo and Columbia. While he was not always the head man, success followed him wherever he went. As a defensive coordinator and linebackers coach, Donnelly led Columbia’s defense to national prominence in 1996, producing three first team all-Ivy players, ranking in the top 20 in seven defensive categories and sending defensive end Marcellus Wiley to the National Football League.

Duke left an impression everywhere he went.

“We lost a good friend, man and husband, a great football coach,” said Denny Douds, head coach at East Stroudsburg University. “He made significant contributions, especially at Muhlenberg where he ran a top shelf program.”

This sentiment — that the football world and Muhlenberg community had lost not just an extraordinary head coach but an even better human being — echoed throughout campus and the football world.

“He was just super passionate and had a way of making you feel important, whether you were an All-American or never played a down,” said assistant coach and alum Josh Carter ‘01. “He thought everybody had an important role. And that’s how he went about life. From Plant Ops all the way to the president, for the Muhlenberg football program to be successful, he needed those relationships.”

After spending half his career moving from school to school, always in search of another place he could make his mark, Donnelly found a home at Muhlenberg. The head coach headset was handed over in 1997 and with it went the losing epidemic. When he took over, Muhlenberg had won just three games in three years. Donnelly resurrected the floundering program, turned Muhlenberg into a perennial powerhouse, a nationally ranked top-10 team, and led the Mules to the ECAC Southwest championship just four years after his arrival.

Under Donnelly, Muhlenberg football had few unsuccessful seasons: 13 postseason berths since 2000, making their first national playoff appearance in 2002, tying for the Centennial Conference championship in four straight years from 2001-04, win after win after win.

He led Muhlenberg to a 6-4 finish and its first winning record in 10 years in 1999.

Just one year later, he sent the Mules to their first postseason appearance since 1946.

Donnelly had a life off the football field that seemed, in so many ways, to inform his abilities as a coach.

Donnelly earned the title of Regional Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association after leading the Mules to their first undefeated regular season in the 106-year history of the program; Muhlenberg would go on to win the Centennial Conference championship and advance to the second round of the NCAA Division III playoffs. The next year, after winning the CC championship again, he was voted CC Coach of the Year.

He coached 19 All-Americans, nine Centennial Conference players of the year, two CC rookies of the year and the program’s all-time leaders in almost every statistical category.

Only one coach in the Centennial Conference has more championships than Donnelly’s seven.

It’s evident that Mike Donnelly was no ordinary football coach. But what made Duke so successful?

Athletic director and acting head coach Corey Goff said, “The wins and losses are important to his legacy. It’s a byproduct of who he was but it’s not the punchline.”

Donnelly had a life off the football field that seemed, in so many ways, to inform his abilities as a coach.

He was a history buff. Donnelly could often be found on an incumbent bike reading a book about World War II and be fascinated in the details. He’d catch you in the hallway and want to talk about the interesting nuances of WWII fighter planes. He told his players about new books he’d read and the lessons that they could take away from historical events.

He was fascinated with cars and his beloved Porsche.

He was described as incredibly intelligent, a lifelong learner.

He stood up for what he believed in, which included punching a classmate in the nose as a final resort to keep him from driving drunk.

He enjoyed “Diners, Driveins and Dives,” cigars and a glass of scotch.

He had stories for days and you’d never hear the story just once.

He had an infectious smile and an unmatched sense of humor. Greg Mitton, a long time friend and the voice of Muhlenberg football, reminisced about one of Donnelly’s classics where he would ask someone “Do you know who’s looking for you?” to which they would respond “Who?” and he would laugh and say “Absolutely nobody.”

He was incredibly stubborn — you could say, as a mule — mostly when it counted.

“He taught young men to be advocates for what they be-

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lieve in, for what they think is right," Goff said. "He's always been known as a professional arguer. He'll talk for three hours about the minutest of details just to make sure that you fully understand what you're arguing for."

But sometimes when it didn't count. As John Loose, an assistant coach at the United States Military Academy West Point, recalled, he'd received butt-dials recently from Donnelly on more than one occasion where he could hear Duke arguing with the nurses about what they were doing wrong.

He appreciated details.

He had an impressive collection of Hawaiian shirts. "My two favorites were his 'Day of the Dead' one and the one that had different models of old airplanes flying on it," remembered Luke Wiley '19. "If he saw someone in a Hawaiian shirt one day, you could expect to see him in one of his within the week."

He had a larger than life personality.

"On my very first day practicing, Coach had myself and several other freshman returning punts," recounted Matthew Stickney '18. "After a couple went uncaught and we were 'commanded' to not let another touch the ground, the next punt fell right between another teammate and myself. I turned and looked at my teammate and then at Coach who yelled, '28, you have got to be the dumbest freshman I have ever recruited.' After a couple weeks, I realized every freshman is the dumbest freshman Coach has ever recruited."

"Duke had an adaptive philosophy. He was a little bit old school, little bit new school. His relationships with the players were new school," said Tim Moncman, Parkland High School coach and one of Donnelly's former players. "He was your coach, but he also saw the human being side of you. Most old school coaches back then didn't do that. He cared about you."

Mike Donnelly cared about people and people cared about him, as was evident by the crowd that filled the seats and corridors of Muhlenberg's Egner Memorial Chapel and Miller Forum, which provided overflow seating. With his current 100 players and coaching staff in front, former players, parents, students, Muhlenberg staff, friends and coaches from seemingly everywhere sat in melancholy silence to celebrate the life of one of Muhlenberg's greatest.

"Mike is one of those special people that was not just a colleague, not just a friend, but family," said Mitton. "He's one of those individuals that you don't tell them enough how much they mean to you personally, or how much he meant to this institution. There's a certain attitude that Muhlenberg kids have — they're kind, they're genuine, they're really hard working, ultimately put others before themselves. I think Mike was a Muhlenberg kid, more a Muhlenberg person. He really did care about this place. He loved this place. Yeah he won a lot of football games and he cared about the men on that team, but he cared just as much about the rest of the community."

He got so much joy out of showing guys there's more to life than simply the Xs and Os of the game.

Stickney and George DiFiore '18, like so many who shared their fondness for Donnelly, spoke highly of what their coach had done for them both on the field and in life. For them, the Duke was a great coach and even better man who taught them how to become better football players but even better people. He got so much joy out of showing guys there's more to life than simply the Xs and Os of the game.

"Coach treated us like men on the football field," said Stickney. "But, what I loved most about him, was how he treated us off the field. We were one of his sons."

For Donnelly, a man described as humble and more invested in those around him than himself, those same qualities that made him a great coach were only more apparent after his diagnosis. He knew how to play the game. He knew how to coach. He knew how to mentor. He knew the importance of being a leader. Through treatment, he was focused on his team and their continued success, with or without him.

"I worry about our kids. No matter what happens to me, I want every one of my kids to get their degree and I want them to have a great football season this fall," said Donnelly in an interview shortly before going to New York for treatment.

He reviewed practice and game tape from his hospital room and kept in constant contact with his coaching staff. He actively watched the live stream of every football game as it unfolded. He ensured that the donuts he brought for his team every Wednesday kept showing up, even from hundreds of miles away, because it was something his players had grown accustomed to. Every step of the way, he put his team before his diagnosis.

In the months following his diagnosis, Donnelly's strong advocacy for leukemia awareness added yet another thing to his legacy. He began to promote and support "Be the Match" and the Andy Talley Bone Marrow Foundation. Muhlenberg football and the community spearheaded the Dig In for Duke campaign, including a day-long campus blood and bone marrow registry drive in September. Almost 400 new marrow registry signups and about 59 blood donations came from that event, aptly called "Muhlenberg Gives."

That is something he would've wanted to be remembered for. His legacy, his personality, his impact will live on.

"He's going to be missed," said Carter. "Sometimes it's hard to pinpoint all the different ways but, with him, you can just know."

Muhlenberg's football program would not be what it is today without Donnelly. Neither would a college community that, for many years on, will hear echoes of the Duke's deep voice, arguing, joking and telling stories and making things just a little bit brighter.

Additional reporting by Matt Riebesell

FROM **FOOTBALL**
PAGE 12

said Kober. His box score for the Ursinus matchup included 11 tackles, featuring 1.5 tackles for a losses totalling six yards. Kober added, "The defense and myself took a lot of pride in limiting their ability to move the ball on the ground." The 11 tackles and five solo tackles were also both career highs for the inside linebacker who has been leaving his mark on the gridiron for the Mules since he has stepped onto campus. Overall, Kober was impressed with the defensive unit's performance as a whole over Ursinus. "I think our ability to get off blocks and blitz clean throughout the entire game helped us attain a solid conference win."

Another critical piece of the victory was the Mules ability to pin Ursinus into bad starting field position. Ursinus was forced to start drives within their own 20 yard-line five separate times because of coffin-corner punts off of the foot of O'Hagen. Previously, O'Hagen had never had to punt the ball more than six times in a game, however, this defensive battle called for the Mules to punt eight times, a career high for the Mules' punter. The special teams also capitalized one punt of over 50 yards, and another punt that Ursinus muffed, resulting in a Mules touchdown. O'Hagen also thought the Mules were determined to do more than just win a football game against Ursinus. "I feel like the whole team was a lot more focused and determined to play well and win against Ursinus in memory of Coach Donnelly. It gave us all a great incentive to play well and win."

Looking forward, the two have a similar mentality to maintain success in a critical time of the season for the Mules. "I am grateful for being named Centennial Conference Player of the Week and being able to make my team, family and friends proud." Kober said. "In future weeks, I hope that I am able to continue do my job and play within the defensive scheme," he added. O'Hagan agreed, "For future weeks I am going to try and play to the best of my ability to help the team win on Saturdays."

FROM **WRESTLING**
PAGE 12

looking to bring his coaching and winning experience to an up and coming Muhlenberg squad that has a deep roster that is looking to build on their growth from last season. McLean will make his head coaching debut for the Mules on Nov. 4 at the Monarch Invitational hosted by King's College, the Mules opening tournament for the 2017-2018 season. Despite hiring a new head coach just a couple of weeks before the season, the Muhlenberg team has been preparing for this season under the leadership of assistant coaches Andrew Drake, Sonnieboy Blanco and Nick Sanko. Drake commended Lally for "preparing both the student-athletes and our staff over the past three seasons with a consistent structure." As the Muhlenberg Wrestling program enters the Jason Mclean era, the team is looking forward competing at the highest level and continue to progress from a successful season a year ago under the helm of a Muhlenberg alum.

Despite streak ending, Mules reach impressive 20-win mark

BY MAX SHAPIRO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

All good things must come to an end, right? The Mules volleyball team unfortunately learned that lesson when their historic 12 game win streak was snapped in a road loss to Johns Hopkins on Oct. 7. The girls hadn't lost since the first week of September, and strung together a whopping 12 straight wins to make them the only team in the Centennial Conference with 20 wins. The win streak was the program's longest since a 13 game win streak in 2013. After a layoff from Centennial Conference play, during which they thrashed every one of their out-of-conference opponents, they didn't miss a beat in their first conference matchup in over a month. The girls dominated the Bryn Mawr squad 3-0, who simply couldn't match up with the Mules' lethal attack and lockdown defense at the net. That win extended the streak to 12, before it ended down in Baltimore, Maryland three days later.

The Mules achieved a great deal during the win streak. They handed defeats to Susquehanna and Ramapo, both of which were NCAA tournament teams from last season. They also were the only team to beat Scranton so far this year. Most importantly, the Mules were clutch in tough situations. The women fought back four different times for five set victories, and from a 2-0 set deficit in three of them. The squad now holds a 5-1 record in conference, good for third place in the Centennial, behind Franklin and Marshall and the still undefeated Johns Hopkins.

The women have done a great job of not letting the end of their unbeaten run rattle them, as they are 2-0 in Centennial Conference action since the Hopkins loss. In addition, all three of those victories have come by way of a 3-0 score line. Their upcoming match against Franklin and Marshall will have major implications in regards to the seeding of the tournament. The Diplomats hold a 6-1 conference record, while the Mules still have yet to play their seventh Centennial match. A win in Lancaster on Oct. 18 would vault the girls into second place in the conference, and give them a crucial tiebreaker over F&M if the two were to end the conference season with the same record. "Streaks are great and everyone loves to keep a winning streak alive, however it's not our end goal. We want to be a really strong team in conference so we have to switch our focus to the next couple of matches as these are probably the most pivotal matches of the season," sophomore Tara Register said.

With the team receiving votes in the national polls for Division III volleyball, and having already hit the 20-win benchmark, they are looking to keep riding high into the Centennial Conference tournament, and do some damage when they get there.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

SPORTS

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Two Mules stand out in takedown of Ursinus

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

While most of the student body was home for the college's Fall Break on Oct. 7, the Muhlenberg football team was dominating at Scotty Wood Stadium in front of a smaller crowd than usual. Coping with the tragic loss of long time Head Coach Mike Donnelly just three days before game day, the Mules were set to face Centennial Conference rival Ursinus, who was tied for first place in the conference entering play with a perfect 5-0 record.

Preparation for this game was a bit different as Muhlenberg was victorious beating Ursinus 21-14 which yielded two Mules earning special honors from the conference for their stellar play. Both Mickey Kober (Defense) '20 and Joseph O'Hagen (Special Teams) '20 received Centennial Conference Player of the Week. "The passing of Coach Donnelly was a huge motivation for the entire program this week. The whole team just wanted to play in Coach Donnelly's honor and make him proud on and off the field," mentioned Kober. "The defensive attempted to emulate Coach Donnelly's work ethic and longstanding tradition of physical defensive play throughout the practice week and on game day," Kober added.

Kober's defensive impact was no surprise for the Mules. As a freshman, he started all 11 games for the Mules, and so far this season he has picked up right where he left off. So far in his sophomore campaign, Kober is 2nd on the team in tackles. "Coming into this week, we knew Ursinus had intended to establish a running game early,"

SEE **FOOTBALL** | PAGE 11

Soccer collides with strong schedule

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBEG COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Midfielder Victor Jacobs '21 (#13) takes a shot on goal in the Mules 3-0 win vs. Ursinus College.

By Jordi Bonvini &
Brandon Cossin
Contributing Writers

The Muhlenberg Men's Soccer team's record has not accurately represented their talent and potential this team has exhibited this season. The team currently stands at a 4-7-2 record, with close losses to top ranked opponents, Rowan and John Hopkins. When asked about the team's struggles, senior captain, Anthony Carracino said, "Its been tough for sure, just by looking at the difficulty of our schedule. We've been able to run and compete with some of the best teams in the country, but the results just haven't gone the way we would have liked."

The loss taken at the hands of Rowan has definitely been the most devastating of the season for the Mules, considering it was taken so soon after the double overtime heartbreaker against Hopkins. The men's team played well for 89 minutes of the game against the 6th ranked team in the country, only for Rowan to steal the game away at the very end. After the loss, Carracino expressed the team's resilience by saying, "It definitely hurts being able to experience first-hand just how close our team is to being up there with the top teams. We've demonstrated game after game that we can play with them, but it just comes down to closing games out and putting teams away. We still have everything to play for though, with four conference games left so nothing is out of the question just yet." The team knows that with the proper adjustments, they will be able to close out games and avoid tough losses.

There is no reason to believe that this team won't improve on their flaws in the future. They are a team composed of predominantly underclassmen, who have been taught to learn from their past mistakes. "Persistence is what breeds success. No matter how much adversity this team has faced so far, all of it is meant to prepare them for the future years to come. With how competitive we've been with the top teams so far this season, along with the attitude these guys bring on the field day in and day out, the one piece of advice I can give to them is to maintain this 'Never say die' attitude we have been trying to instill from the very start," said Carracino regarding advice he would give to his underclassmen teammates moving forward

With the season coming to an end, the Mules Men's Soccer team remains optimistic that they can recover from these devastating losses. They need to maintain the same desire and attitude that they have had throughout the entire season,and move on from the tough losses that have been handed to them. With three games remaining on their highly competitive Centennial Conference schedule, and currently in the 8th seed the conference, the team hopes to be in playoff picture by the end of the season. Realistically, it will most likely take the Mules to win all three of the remaining conference matchups, and sneaking into the playoffs may even require some help from other teams who are currently at the top of the league. Regardless, they are not going to let any tough losses derail them from reaching their goals in the final weeks of their fall season.

Wrestling Alum Returns as Head Coach

By Josh Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

In late September the Muhlenberg Wrestling program found out shocking news when their head coach, Shaun Lally, made the decision to resign from his position. Nearly three weeks later, it was announced that Muhlenberg has found their new head coach, Jason McLean. Mclean is a Muhlenberg graduate from the class of 2001 and is one of the most decorated Muhlenberg wrestlers in program history. During his career at Muhlenberg, McLean was amongst the best wrestlers in the Centennial Conference and earned both All-Centennial Conference and All-America honors. Mclean was the first Muhlenberg wrestler to earn All-America honors and finished his career with a tremendous record of 71-31. Since graduating from Muhlenberg, McLean has held several coaching roles in many sports including wrestling, football and track and field. One of his most notable coaching achievements came 11 years ago when Mclean brought back the wrestling program at New Brunswick High School after a 25 year hiatus. Since bringing back the program at New Brunswick, the wrestling team has had members qualify for both the regional and sectional state tournaments. Mclean is now

McLean was the first Muhlenberg wrestler to earn All-America honors

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Field Hockey
VS
Fri. Oct. 20 at 7:00 pm
@ Westminster, MD

Women's Golf
Dickinson All-American Red Devil Classic
Sat. Oct. 21 at 10:30
@ Carlisle, PA

Volleyball
VS
VS
Sat. Oct. 21 at 12:00 pm
& 2:00 pm
@ Westminster, MD

Women's Soccer
VS
Sat. Oct. 21 at 1:00 pm
@ Westminster, MD

Football
VS
Sat. Oct. 21 at 2:00 pm
@ Westminster, MD

Men's Soccer
VS
Sat. Oct 21 at 4:00 pm
@ Westminster, MD

Volleyball
VS
Wed. Oct 25 at 7:00 pm
@ Swarthmore, PA

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The Muhlenberg Weekly

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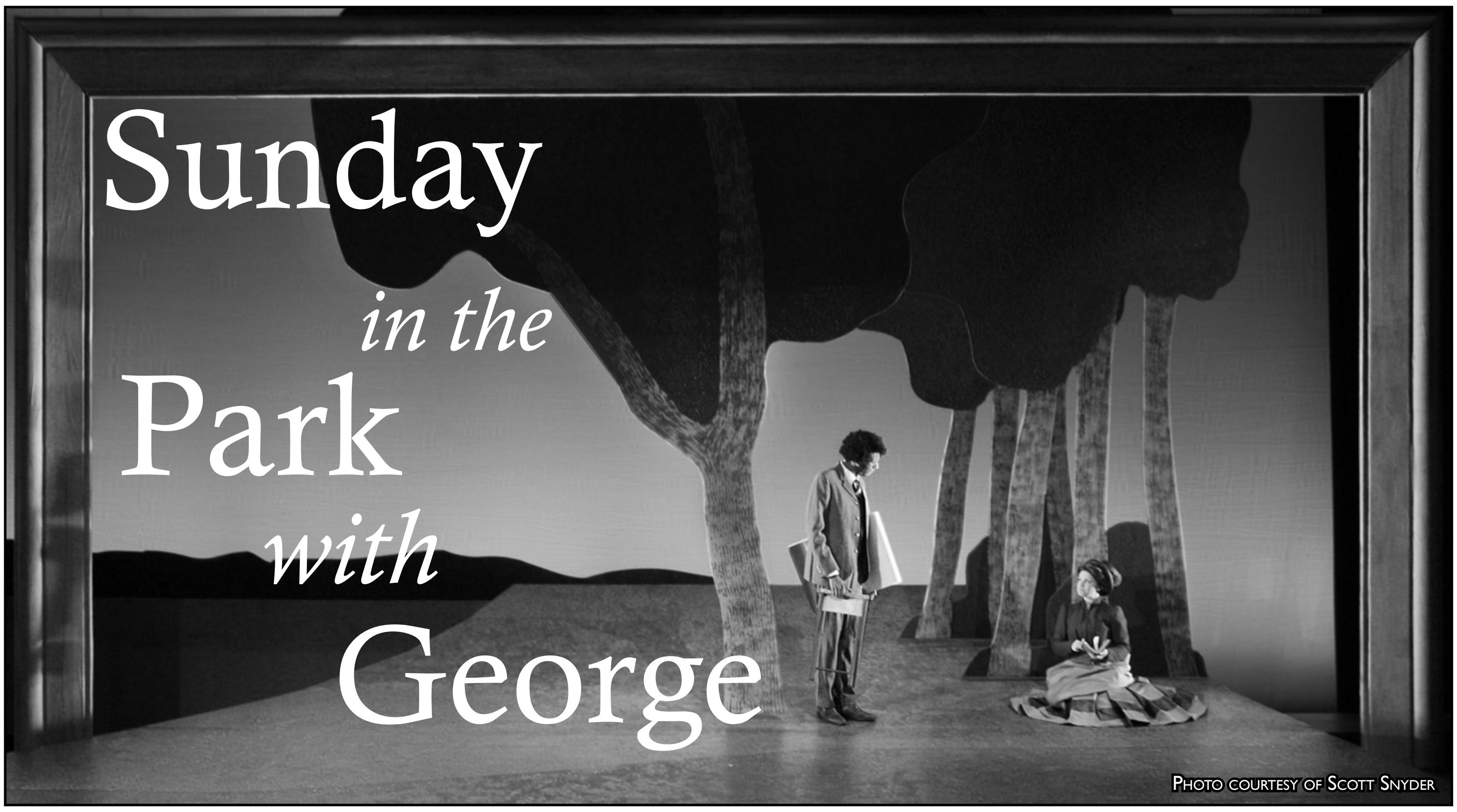

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT SNYDER

"Sunday in the Park with George" opens Friday, promising performances that play with color, light and time itself. READ MORE ON PAGE 7.

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Dr. Javier Avila brings his political performance to campus to generate discussion about buried struggles. **8**

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Muhlenberg has plans to improve facilities; see what some athletes have to say about their wishes. **12**

"Welcome to Trans-Reality"

Dr. Susan Stryker questions the nature of truth and reality across the vastness of gender identity

BY IAN ADLER
NEWS EDITOR

"Making our gender real is what we trans-people do, and we bring our worlds with us," Dr. Susan Stryker began with during her speech in Seegers on Oct. 18.

The speech featured passages from Stryker's book, "What Transpires Now: Transgender History and the Future We Need," which she began writing in the Fall of 2016. After last year's presidential election, however, her general attitude toward the piece began to shift.

"We [trans-people] need to have a united front," said Stryker in her talk. "I wanted to write the overture to the book that really kind of hit the themes, the tone, that I wanted to convey a sense of the urgency about why I feel the need to tell stories about the transgender past," especially as it relates to the shift in conversation around trans rights after the election of Donald Trump.

Stryker, a Transgender Studies scholar, is helping to lead that front through more avenues than just in her University of Arizona classrooms.

"Dr. Stryker's works fundamentally trouble many of the taken for granted truths that we have grown up with," said Assistant Professor of Media and Communications Dr. Beth Corzo-Duchardt in her introduction of Stryker. "By its nature, Transgender Studies troubles the so-called truth of the immutability of the gender binary."

The speech, sponsored by women's and gender studies, corresponded with the Center for Ethics' theme of "Troubling Truth" by reevaluating preconceived notions of truth and reality within the concept of a gender binary and its' intersection with other issues in social, racial and political spheres.

At one point, Stryker described the idea of gender as a "vast, impersonal social apparatus that like some magical, Hogwarts sorting hat whispers the secret of our identity into our ears and places us with our kind."

Stryker tied together ideas of this personal journey of identity to the idea of truth in reality-based and historically-based senses.

"To write history is not to string one brute fact after another to fill up the emptiness of time," said Stryker. "To write history, for those of us who need another world, is to catch sight elsewhere of radical possibilities made visible by the light of a current calamity."

"Reality is a fiction we tell of things we bump against in darkness," added Stryker.

Near the middle of her speech, Stryker addressed the issue of administrative hypocrisy and discrimination against minorities over a techno soundtrack, creating an atmosphere of lighthearted intensity with the audience. In it, she tied together ideas ranging from Beyoncé's Super Bowl performance and the implications of healthcare reform on racial and sexual minorities to sarcastic conspiracies on Barack and Michelle Obama's plan as "intergalactic, shape-shifting, reptilian humanoids," to "colonize earth and enslave its human population," by sterilizing the humans "under the guise of same-sex marriage, the Affordable Care

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Rise in bike thefts raises student awareness of policies, protections

BY MELISSA REPH
NEWS EDITOR

A recent outbreak of bicycle thefts across campus prompted an email from Campus Safety notifying students and urging those with bikes on campus to use caution.

Justin Revel '19 is one of the students who had their bike stolen in the past few weeks. Revel explained that he lives in a MILE house and uses his bike daily to get to campus.

Revel's bike was stolen from where he kept it locked up behind the house while he was at baseball practice.

"I contacted Campus Safety and met with them to describe my bike and the situation. Then I contacted Allentown Police Department but I never heard anything back," Revel said.

"I had a blue Schwinn mountain bike. I typically keep a standard four letter password combination lock," Revel said of the bike that was stolen. He has since replaced it, although he is using the same style lock as before.

One of Revel's housemates, Seth Wasserman '19, also uses a bike as his main mode of transportation. "It's like my only way to get to campus anymore," Wasserman explained.

The recent rise in thefts have made Wasserman concerned that he might have his bike stolen as well.

"From what I've heard, even the ones that were locked up, they cut the lock. If they want my bike, they're going to get it, nothing I can do about it besides locking it up," Wasserman said, adding that Revel's bike was taken from their backyard.

While Wasserman doubts the thieves will take his bike "during broad daylight," he does feel nervous about leaving it out at night. He mentioned an instance where he needed to go into the Life Sports Center for an errand and debated locking up his bike even though "it wasn't worth going through the hassle for the 30 seconds" he would be inside for. Yet there was still the thought that in those 30 seconds, Was-

SEE **BIKES** | PAGE 4

Editorial

The cost of free speech

Journalism comes with a price tag — for both the reporter and the reader

The Newseum, The New York Times declared on Oct. 22, could potentially go under.

Home to all things involving the first amendment, the cubist-style building on Pennsylvania Avenue boasts relics such as chunks of the Berlin Wall and an entire exhibit on 9-11 front pages and newsreels. It is a space dedicated to the journalistic tradition that is very much needed in a time where Fake News circulates faster than the common cold and modern diplomacy takes place over Twitter.

With a whopping $24.95 per person admission fee on a stretch of free museums — and public donations bringing in less than ten percent of the museum's budget — it's no wonder the institution is floundering. In the nine years since its doors opened, the Newseum has turned up a deficit every year, reports Times writer Sopan Deb. The Newseum relies, according to the Times, mostly on private donations from a single institute, whose own resources are slowly dwindling.

So the question remains: What good is free speech if it costs its audience a pretty penny to hear it?

Certainly, there is a particular socioeconomic status required to stay informed. While a college student with a full course load supporting themselves on a minimum wage job isn't going to have the time, or potentially the cash, to spend on a newspaper subscription, a CEO who is home for dinner every night will. As much as we can, we at The Weekly offer information for free, but there are other institutions that are unable to do that.

Unlike the New York Times or Washington Post, a subscription to The Weekly doesn't cost the individual reader anything. Like any other club, students pay an activities fee with their tuition, the lump sum of which is then delegated to various clubs by SGA. The newspaper itself is free for the taking off of racks in Java Joe's, the bookstore and around campus.

One of the biggest drawbacks to print journalism is, and will continue to be, simply the cost of the physical product. Our long-time publisher, Lynne Septon, offers us a rate that others simply cannot match — and yet, a majority of our budget still goes towards printing.

What good is free speech if it costs its audience a pretty penny to hear it?

The Internet, on the other hand, is free. It has taken us at The Weekly nearly two decades to figure it out, but we finally have a new website (muhlenbergweekly.com) that works for us and our readers alike.

Yet, there is something about the crack of the newspaper as you uncrease it with your GQ coffee, or the smell of the newsprint, that a computer or smartphone cannot replicate.

With SGA budgets due soon, and a quarter of our editorial board graduating in May, we at The Weekly need to look at our own expenses and ask ourselves what it will cost to keep the journalistic tradition going on a campus without a journalism department.

The cost of free speech is high — and the cost of keeping the public informed is even higher.

From the Editorial Board of
The Muhlenberg Weekly

Athleticism and body type

Why one size doesn't fit one sport

By Emily Davidson
Op/Ed Editor

In my collegiate running career, I have lost count of the number of times I've been approached and asked if I'm either a soccer or a field hockey player. When I inform them I'm a distance runner, I'm typically confronted with a puzzled look, a surprised "oh," or a doubtful "really?" Cross country, track and field — and more importantly, every single sport — are not limited by a "one size fits one sport" criteria. Attributing particular body types to sports results in false boundaries of what our bodies can do or what we'll excel at. This emphasized attention and focus to body types and body weight can also contribute to the development of eating disorders.

Certain sports are particularly associated with eating disorders. In a study referenced by the National Eating Disorder Association (NEDA), more than one-third of female athletes exampliﬁed attitudes and symptoms which demonstrated risk for anorexia nervosa. Notably, risk factors by NEDA include sports that emphasize aesthetics, focus on the individual, in particular endurance sports and the prevailing belief that a lower body weight can result in an improvement in performance.

Unfortunately, distance running combines every single one of the aforementioned risk factors. This season, our cross country coaches brought in a nutritionist to speak with our men's and women's teams during preseason. The presentation focused on how to properly fuel our bodies and how to establish positive food habits. The nutritionist warned against eliminating particular food groups or foods, and encouraged us to "listen to our bodies" and eat when hungry.

On a national stage, Lauren Fleshman, previous professional runner, NCAA champion, USA Track and Field champion, who placed seventh at the 2011 World Championships in the 5K, has openly addressed eating disorders on multiple platforms. Fleshman has written about eating disorders within the sport on her personal website, asklaurenfleshman.com, in addition to discussing eating disorders in a podcast with Dr. Melody Moore, a clinical psychologist with a focus on eating disorders. It's encouraging to see attention and efforts to educate student athletes about eating disorders and develope positive dietary habits, especially in a sport I am personally involved with at Muhlenberg, and also on a national scale by spokespeople such as Lauren Fleshman.

The other day, watching the Yankees and Astros game, my boyfriend commented on how a particular player, José Altuve, was not expected to "make it" on the professional level; he was considered too short to excel at such an elite level. In the midst of working on this article, I immediately challenged his assertion — what did height have to do with baseball? How could height solely dictate and encompass all ability in a sport influenced by reflexes, strength, coordination and so much more? As it turns out, José Altuve is the shortest baseball player actively playing within the MLB, recording a height of 5 feet and 6 inches. In 2017, Altuve recorded a remarkable .346 batting average.

No matter the sport, comments stereotyping a particular body type to a sport can be harmful, discouraging, and limiting. Athletic ability is not determined by a number on a scale, the perceptibility of muscle, or a overall body-type. There are short volleyball and short basketball players, thin and lanky soccer players, built and muscular distance runners and everything in between.

We care about how we look; personally, our self image matters in addition to our body image and how we appear to others. It's important to foster acceptance of body types — short, tall, strong, thin, defined, undefined — and to focus on the ability in sport, and not necessarily the aesthetic. It's essential to recognize the appreciation of your body to do what you love, your sport, with the people you love, your team and to refrain from attributing a particular body type to a particular sport. After all, sports are not limited by a "one size fits one sport" criteria.

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Putting the “hallow” back in “Halloween”

Re-establishing Our Savior’s place among the tricks and treats

By Will Wamser
Senior Staff Writer

To the untrained eye, Halloween appears to be a night for heathens focused on honoring the damned and indulging in the sin of gluttony. But you, dear reader, are lucky, for mine eyes have trained upon the mountain top under the great and powerful Ra’s Al Ghul for many years now and they are able to see the truth behind the holiday commonly known as Halloween. Let us examine the word, Halloween; “hallow” means a saint or holy person and the use of the suffix “–een” forms a diminutive noun, so Halloween is about honoring small saints. And who was the smallest saint? Why, Jesus Christ of course. The tradition of Halloween has lost its deeply religious roots.

Let’s take it back now y’all, to Corinthians 38:2 “And lo, Carl, go out among the people with nothing but the garb of the holiest and smallest of men and thine gourd, which has been properly emptied to make room for sweets a plenty, and demand thine neighbor to relinquish their treats lest they be tricked, by me, God.” A passage with more meaning now than it did when God’s secretary transcribed it for them.

Now you may be wondering why I included this passage, the answer is simple: this passage contains the first description of Halloween. You may now go back and reread the passage with this knowledge in mind.

Halloween is a night for all to honor Jesus with their most accurate depiction of him, part of the fun being that you can dress as Jesus at any age. I recall a few years back I went as 15-year-old Jesus and I won a few costume contests that night.

What you are supposed to do and who you are supposed to be is clearly laid out in the bible, and as a child it really meant something. I remember as a boy, not much smaller than Jesus himself, when every boy and none of the girls on the compound will call out for treats and threaten those who would not give them treats with the prospect that God may pull some sort of prank on them, except for Father Chad, who we all know is God’s wing man and God would never do him dirty like that. That is what Halloween should be, but ever since I was forcibly removed from the compound for watching the forbidden tape, “The Pineapple Incident” episode of “How I Met Your Mother,” I noticed that the rest of the world was using this most sacred of days to dress of monsters and ghouls with no regard for His heavenly father’s pranks.

Halloween is about honoring small saints. And who was the smallest saint? Why, Jesus Christ of course.

You can see this war on Halloween everywhere in this time of year and it gets worse every year. With every year you see fewer and fewer stores decorating with the correct and appropriate cardboard skellington, symbolizing the small skinny man for whom this holiday is all about, and instead they are putting up plastic boogiemen, the Devil’s brother in arms in this war on Halloween! These boogiemen represent everything wrong with the world today; they are not for Christ, their main goal in Halloween is only to take the treats and not to bring about God’s tricks, they smell weird, they bring about a weak harvest and, worst of all, they are much too tall.

But what do we, as God fearing children of Father Chad, to do? We must march, march on Washington, DC or otherwise. Show those fat cats in both Washingtons that we’ve had enough of the children of this world dressing as monsters and ghouls, we’ve had enough of Jesus not being acknowledged as the smallest saint, we’ve had enough of the boogiemen stealing jobs from hard working Christian skellingtons and we’ve for sure had enough of the hallow being taken from Halloween. If you stand with me, meet me in both Washingtons tonight, if you can’t make it just let me know on Facebook. Together we shall put the hallow right where it belongs, in the word Halloween.

You might not like hearing this, but I don’t like “Riverdale”

Warning: major spoilers for “Riverdale” ahead!

Pop's
CHOCK'LIT SHOPPE

Photo Courtesy of Jeff Hitchcock via Flickr

Found both in the show and the comics, Pop’s is were Jughead can be found with his true love: burgers.

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

With the second season of “Riverdale” coming out and the continued online frenzy that the show has caused, I feel like it’s time to express my, somewhat, educated opinion on it. The show is terrible. There, I said it. I hate “Riverdale.” Now I don’t have anything against the cast, I think they’re great. They’ve won awards recognizing their acting chops and from what I’ve observed of them on social media, they all seem like nice people. The bone I have to pick is not with them personally, so please don’t get upset over that, but with the show writers, producers and anyone else in charge of making storyline decisions.

Now in order to explain what it is I don’t like about “Riverdale,” I have to provide some background. Anyone who knows me can tell you I read a lot of comics, and last year I started expanding beyond my normal repertoire of DC to more indie titles and comics that aren’t about superheroes. Seeing a lot of positive feedback from fans on “Jughead,” I decided to give it a read, thus launching me into the world of Archie Comics. I will admit that I only know of Riverdale, its residents and neighboring communities through the ongoing runs of “Jughead” and “Josie and the Pussycats.” However, the characters and overall tone are so warped that I feel confident in stating my opinion based on these two titles alone.

Upon reading “Jughead,” I realized how much I loved the character, his kooky adventures and friendships. I really enjoyed him and was so excited to see him portrayed on TV, and by Cole Sprouse no less. For these reasons, mixed with a smidge of morbid curiosity, I eagerly watched the first episode and was mildly surprised by the tone and the fact that Archie was having an affair with his teacher, the much younger than the comics, Miss Grundy. Frankly this student/teacher relationship skeeved me out quite a bit, especially since the Miss Grundy I was used to was about forty years Archie’s senior and mean as all get out. Thankfully, it lasted only a few episodes and I thought the show could get on with a good old, Scooby-Doo-type mystery. Unfortunately that was much too naïve of me.

Looking back on it now, I really shouldn’t have been so surprised by all this, seeing as how I watch and complain about how poor the adaptations are of the DC shows done by CW which — for those of you who binged it on Netflix — is where “Riverdale” airs. I guess, like the beginning of every season of “Arrow,” I just had high hopes. Hopes that before long were dashed and smashed to smithereens. Unfortunately, thanks to the aforementioned morbid curiosity, I had to see where this trainwreck would finally come to a screeching halt. Not to mention the junior detective in me wanted to find out who Jason Blossom’s killer was.

As I’ve said, Jughead is my favorite character, so the liberties taken with him in the show are really what upsets me the most. In his comics Jughead is smart, if lazy, and focused solely on Pop’s burgers, video games and his friends. His parents are not divorced, and his dad is most certainly not the alcoholic leader of a biker gang whose actions cause Jughead to be homeless. Seeing that in the show was shocking to say the least. If you don’t believe how much the tidbit about Jughead’s lack of a proper bed upset me, then you can ask my mother, who was forced to listen to a rant longer than this article the weekend after I watched that particular episode.

More importantly than the wrecking ball the writers took to his homelife, a major part of Jughead’s character in the comics is that he identifies as asexual and aromantic. At one point he even accidentally ends up on a date with Sabrina (the teenage witch) and freaks out because he is so far out of his comfort zone, having to explain to Sabrina that he never viewed her in that way and just wanted them to be friends. He even gets into arguments with Archie, his best friend, over the fact that he doesn’t understand Archie’s girl troubles because sometimes Archie is insensitive and an idio,t but Jughead always sets him straight. His relationship with Betty is strictly platonic, as are all his relationships. I cannot stress this enough, Bughead is not canon. It’s not! Betty hugs him once and Jughead pretty much says “get off right now, thanks.” For the show to completely and utterly ignore this is huge since there are very few representations of aro and ace-spec people in media of any kind. Jughead’s relationship with Betty in the show is a huge slap in the face to the writers and artists who took the time to research and respectfully portray those who identify as aro and ace through Jughead.

I could go on about how much I detest the soap opera nature of the show; or about the fact that characters like Josie, Valerie, Melody, Reggie and others are being used simply to further the plot rather than tell their own unique and interesting stories like in the comics; or about how there was so much source material and different iterations of the characters and yet the writers decided that this end product was ok. However, at this point you probably don’t want to hear it. So watch “Riverdale” but watch it with a grain of salt. Know that the show’s plot could have been accomplished with any generic characters and setting, that there was no need to use the names of beloved characters who have been around for nearly 80 years. Above all, read the source material because just like everything else, the original is always better.

Campus Safety Notes

Monday, October 16
Found Property - 5:25 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a found phone. The owner was unable to be identified, so the phone was placed in a lost and found locker.

Property Damage - 7:04 p.m.
In the Prosser Parking Lot, there was a report of damage found to the bumper of a College vehicle. It is unknown when the damage occurred.

Lost Property - 9:20 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a found credit card. The owner claimed the item.

Tuesday, October 17
Sick Student - 3:57 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Injured Student - 10:00 p.m.
At the Back Drive, there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Theft - 10:45 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of a theft of a bicycle. The investigation is to continue.

Wednesday, October 18
Fire Alarm Sounding - 12:30 a.m.
In Taylor Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm triggered by steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset.

Suspicious Activity - 3:09 a.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of suspicious activity. The investigation is to continue.

Sick Student - 9:24 a.m.
In Brown Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and Allentown EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by Allentown EMS.

Theft - 5:00 p.m.
On Chew Street, there was a report of a theft of a bicycle. The investigation is to continue.

Drug Violation - 8:47 p.m.
On Chew Street, there was a report of possession of drug paraphernalia. The items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in an evidence locker. There was a referral to the Dean of Students office.

Injured Student - 10:46 p.m.
In East Hall, there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, but the student has refused further treatment or transport at this time.

Thursday, October 19
Sick Employee - 2:42 a.m.
In the Life Sports Center, there was a report of a sick employee. The individual was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Found Property - 3:47 a.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a found purse. A message was left with the owner to pick the purse up at Campus Safety.

Friday, October 20
Noise Complaint - 12:34 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a noise complaint. Campus Safety Officers told the students to lower their volume.

Saturday, October 21
Noise Complaint - 12:16 a.m.
On North 23rd Street, there was a report of a noise complaint. Nothing was noted upon arrival.

Intoxicated Person - 1:01 a.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of an intoxicated person. Muhlenberg College EMS and Allentown EMS responded, and Allentown EMS transported the student to the hospital.

Intoxicated Person - 3:16 a.m.
At 331 North 22nd Street, there was a report of an intoxicated person. Muhlenberg College EMS and Allentown EMS responded, and Allentown EMS transported the student to the hospital.

Sick Student - 10:11 a.m.
In East Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Theft From Building - 4:15 p.m.
At 26th Street, on the Back Drive, there was a report of a stolen stop sign. The investigation will continue.

Electrical Problem - 7:01 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of an electrical problem. It was the result of a tripped circuit in a circuit breaker.

Sunday, October 22
Intoxicated Person - 1:16 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an intoxicated person. Muhlenberg College EMS and Allentown EMS responded, and Allentown EMS transported the student to the hospital

Sick Student - 7:37 a.m.
In Prosser Annex, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

FROM **SUSAN STRYKER**
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Act, government funded sex-change surgery and hormones."

A lot to digest, yes, but these truths are nonetheless constructed out of the apparent reality of irrational fear-mongerers: this is "What Transpires Now," she would reiterate.

Although the soundtrack covered a significant portion of Stryker's delivery, she went on to enhance her message in another intersection-focused monologue that grew out of the language in her book.

"Unsurprisingly, the rates of all such negative consequences of being trans are significantly higher among black and indigenous peoples, and somewhat higher among other racially minoritized trans-people who live at the intersection of multiple systemic oppression," Stryker added.

The phrase "I can't breathe," uttered by Eric Garner is 2014, touches on this intersectionality – it introduces a rupture into the framework of ethical dilemmas we face at these intersections. This intersectionality, however, is punctuated by a division in the organization of different forms of life, she would later add.

While animals respire, the transpiration of plants "suggests a lowly baseline existence. It means simply to happen without volition, simply to persist in being," Stryker explained.

"Species, races, ethnicities, genders are all distinctions we make between categories of life so that various bodies with various capacities can be ordered according to the greater or lesser worth we accord them."

Following the talk, ideas about this organization came to light when in comparison to the civil rights movement and bathroom access for trans individuals.

"What it [transgender bathroom issue] actually involves is the public accommodation of different bodies," replied Stryker. "It is not dissimilar to the fact of women moving into the workforce… it is not dissimilar to racially segregated toilets… it is not dissimilar to the ADA… it is not dissimilar to what was going on with the AIDS crisis."

One student raised the systematic issue of breaking through predominantly white spaces for black LGBTQ individuals, a historically unacknowledged group on campus. "How do you, as someone who has a platform, speak to and bring those 30+ transpeople who have died at the hands of police brutality... into this space and encourage the white people who run our Queer Student Association or LGTBQ+ inclusive spaces on this campus to bring black (trans) people into their spaces and welcome them with open arms," the student asked.

"How is it that I'm with something without speaking as something?" Stryker replied, referencing to her own attendance at a Black Lives Matter protest. "How do I find that place where I'm speaking alongside?"

"I feel like it's really hard for white people, myself included, to acknowledge complicity and structural violence that you cannot change by your individual actions," Stryker continued with. "There is a sense in which simply because of how my body is, white privilege circulates through it and gets reproduced through it and what do I do about that? Not in some kind of liberal, white-guilt kind of way but how do I hold the inescapability of that? I think a partial answer to that is to not disavow when power circulates through you."

In essence, the advantage of white privilege can be used to provide a platform for an inclusive discussion with regard to any topic. With a predominantly white campus, Muhlenberg students, staff and faculty can take a look at "What Transpires Now," to continue the conversation on trans-issues and their intersectionality with race, ethnicity and class.

IAN ADLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Dr. Susan Stryker is a Professor of Transgender Studies at the University of Arizona, writer and active agent for change amongst the LGBTQ+ community.

A "Troubling" ruse

Controversial "Alternative Center for Ethics" posters prompt reactions from both students and administration

By Ali Watson
Senior Staff Writer

On Monday Oct. 2, Muhlenberg's Center for Ethics invited co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement in Canada, Janaya Khan, to feature as a guest lecturer in this year's speaker series entitled 'Troubling Truth.' Reactions to the event were not without controversy. However, one of the more troubling incidents occurred the day after Janaya Khan's talk when posters by the so-called 'alternative center for ethics' were found scattered throughout campus.

The controversial posters raised an uproar across campus, including the filing of 13 Bias Incident Reporting Forms.

Whenever one of these forms is submitted, there is a certain protocol that is followed up by the Dean of Students office in order to appropriately address the students.

Dean Gulati met with many of the students who submitted concerns related to the fliers and "discussed their feelings about the incident, their motivation for completing the Bias Incident Report, and some of the outcomes they would like to see as a result of what happened."

Gulati continued by saying "as in all cases, we talked about the conduct process, and all of the ways we may be able to go about repairing harm within our community."

Ultimately, the posters were taken down as a result of a posting violation. Posting violations can occur if flyers are hung on non-approved spaces such as windows and doors. Removing the posters as a violation of posting rules is an 'easier' and faster process. Comparatively, removing posters, or any form of posting, because of suspected hate crime or bias grounds, is a much more intricate and time consuming process. Because of the content of the posters, and the due process required with hate and bias related accusations, it was important to remove the posters as quickly as possible.

Other incidents around campus, such as those that occurred during Homecoming Weekend and the events surrounding Janaya Khan's lecture, beg the question: what is the college administration doing to support and encourage education on social justice action and involvement on campus?

In response to some of these recent events, Gulati states "collectively we need to redouble our efforts to support all members of our community and ensure that we are working in every way possible to create a campus climate that is free of hate and bias and in which all students can thrive regardless of their identities."

She continued on, "specifically, President Williams and I have spent time with a number of students individually and student groups discussing these incidents and our direct follow up."

In conclusion to the posters from the so-called 'Alternative Center for Ethics:' "The flyers that were posted after Janaya Khan's visit were posted anonymously, with false information, and in a way that marks particular identities in our community, particularly African American members of our community, in false ways," remarked Gulati.

Lastly, Dean Gulati said she "feel[s] strongly in the free exchange of ideas and thoughts on our campus and believe deeply in freedom of expression, but I also will defend deeply our commitment to people of all identities."

There is contention within the community as to how to approach a dialogue on race and politics. After the response from students and the administration, it is safe to say that anonymously putting up flyers throughout the school with inflammatory information is not the way to do it.

Recent changes to the Counseling Center

Under new director Dr. Tim Silvestri, the Center looks to continue to improve its services and outreach

By Gregory Kantor
Editor-in-Chief

On Sept. 18, Allison Gulati, Dean of Students, announced that Dr. Tim Silvestri had been selected as Muhlenberg's newest Director of Counseling Services.

Silvestri, who holds a PhD in Counseling Psychology from Lehigh University and completed his psychology residency at the University of Pennsylvania, comes to Muhlenberg from Lafayette College, where he served as the Assistant Director of Lafayette's Counseling Center. Silvestri is also no stranger to Muhlenberg, as he is both an alumnus (Class of 1992) and a part-time faculty member at the Wescoe School.

Now, he is tasked with leading an oft-maligned component of Student Health Services at the College. Needless to say, Silvestri is excited to meet the challenge head-on.

"When I meet with students or I'm walking on Academic Row, it feels nice to be surrounded by your own community," said Silvestri. "It's truly amazing and rewarding to be able to give back to the community that has supported me so deeply."

Recent improvements to the Counseling Center began in earnest in Dec. 2016, when the College formally identified short and long-term plans. At the forefront of concerns was the approximately three-week-long waiting list to see a counselor.

Currently, with respect to waiting times, the overall goal of the Center is to ensure that students looking for ongoing counseling wait no longer than four days and that students seeking a single, time-sensitive session wait no longer than two days. According to Silvestri, the Center has been "able to strike a balance" between the single and ongoing tracks and thus is meeting those goals as it enters the peak phase of counseling requests for the semester without a waiting list.

Silvestri attributes these improvements to the work of Dean Gulati, Brynnmarie Dorsey, the Executive Director of Student Health Services, and the Counseling Center staff — which, including Silvestri, has two new counselors this year.

In addition to new staff for this academic year, Silvestri stated that there will be a further expansion moving forward with the incorporation of doctoral interns.

"These advanced trainees can bring in a fresh perspective with current trends that students can relate to," said Silvestri. "It will help us expand our diversity in terms of staff, interests and perspectives."

However, the Center is completing other changes that reach beyond staffing.

In the coming months, the Center will begin holding workshops for students on topics of relationships, stress management, and authenticity and performance. Currently, the workshops will begin in a "soft rollout" phase, with full integration by next year.

"We want to meet folks in the community and do outreach to arm people with skills to give them tools to combat stress," said Silvestri. "These are workshops I've held at other colleges that have been well received and I'm excited to bring them here."

Hosting such workshops was one of the areas of improvement that Gulati mentioned when discussing longer-term changes at the Center. What will be important is properly balancing in-office counseling with outreach events.

"When it comes to physical and mental health and well-being, we need to proactively give students the tools to make good decisions and manage their own health," Gulati told The Weekly in December. "We also need to be effective in being responsive when students are in need of support."

Silvestri agrees, saying "when a counseling center is functioning at its best, it is there to not only reduce stress, but also to enhance vitality."

But for now, four weeks into his tenure as director, Silvestri is appreciative of those who came before him and is excited to continue to work with his staff to improve general health and wellness for students on campus.

"It's been a real team effort that began before I arrived," said Silvestri. "We now have a nice package that will really serve students well."

from **Bikes**
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serman's bike might be gone.

"As far as trying to prevent a bicycle theft, always try to secure the frame of the bicycle to a fixed object using a U-type steel lock," Campus Safety Officer James Thamarus said. He added that the cable locks that appeal to students thanks to their price are to be avoided as they can easily be cut.

Both Revel and Wasserman mentioned that they did not know about registering their bikes through Campus Safety, something that Thamarus urges all students with bikes on campus to do.

When registering bikes, either Thamarus or Officer Kevin Kennedy will take the student's name and contact information, a description of the bike and the serial number. Bikes are then given a Muhlenberg College Bicycle Registration decal. Registering bikes is similar to applying for a parking pass, keeping accurate records of the vehicles on campus should anything happen. The registration process is both free and fast and can be done from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. seven days a week.

"If the bike is ever stolen and found, Campus Safety will be able to run the registration decal to identify the owner of the bike, so that it can be returned to the owner," Thamarus said. "The same thing would happen if the bike were to be found by the Allentown Police Department. The Allentown Police would see the Muhlenberg College bicycle registration and be able to contact Campus Safety to identify the owner."

While registering the bike, Thamarus mentioned that they also give the bike a tune-up, doing minor repairs and adjustments. Both Kennedy and Thamarus attended a bicycle repair technician school a few years ago and are able to offer repairs after the initial registration.

Ian Adler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Thieves have been cutting cable locks, prompting Campus Safety Officer James Thamarus to recommend "U-type steel locks," for added security.

"Usually, if a student has his or her bike at Muhlenberg College and it's in need of a repair, the bike will have to sit until the student can take it to a bike shop," Thamarus said. "We use that training as a way to get involved with the campus community by offering free bicycle tune-ups and repairs if needed."

This Week in Muhlenberg College History:

City council ordinance limits off-campus housing

By a 4-3 margin, Muhlenberg students lose housing privileges

By Karl Schultz
News Writer

"This Week in Muhlenberg College History" will bring to light past events, individuals, and forgotten aspects of Muhlenberg history that have been buried within the College's 169 years of existence.

Photo courtesy of The Muhlenberg Weekly

Muhlenberg College attorney Maxwell Davidson speaks at the August 26 hearing before the Allentown Planning Commission.

Almost 20 years ago today, the College was fighting the initial inception of the ordinance, which was eventually passed mid-October 1997. The passing of Ordinance no. 59 was preceded by a hearing with the Allentown City Planning Commission.

As many of us know, Allentown government is currently debating a new expansion of the Muhlenberg Student Residence Overlay District. Simply speaking, the overlay gives Allentown officials the ability to restrict the number of students living in a home that falls in the zone. This decision, however, is one that has faced the college before. Almost exactly 20 years ago today, the College was fighting the initial inception of the ordinance, which was eventually passed mid-October, 1997. Though similar to its contemporary form, the original ordinance did have some differences, and was met with much stronger opposition by the college.

The story originally broke on September 4, 1997, with the first sentence of the front page article reading "The future of 'off-campus' living will become endangered if Ordinance No. 59 passes." On August 26, the Allentown City Planning Commission held a hearing to discuss the proposed zoning change. At this initial meeting, supporters of Ordinance 59 claimed that off campus students contributed "noise, litter, overcrowding, and parking problems to the area." The college disagreed with this wholly, having students, alumni, and administration present at the meeting. Former Dean of Admissions Chris Hooker-Haring gave an impassioned speech, claiming "fifty years ago, residents might have done the same thing by appearing before you with zoning restrictions. Except this time, these residents might have wanted to restrict Blacks and Puerto-Ricans from their neighborhood." Allentown resident Bob Freed ardently disagreed with Hooker-Haring, stating "by law, students are not a discriminated class. Zoning laws restrict; they do not discriminate." With both sides so passionately opposing the other's, it was clear to all that this would be a lengthy process.

The story remained relatively quiet apart from the occasion inclusion in a letter to the editor. It wasn't until the September 25, 1997 issue that the headline proudly read, "College wins fight against City Council Ordinance No. 59." The outcome of the vote the previous week was a tie at 3-3, which meant the ordinance was dead. This came as a shock to many, including then Mayor Bill Heydt. Heydt claimed "this neighborhood is being threatened. Considering our commitment to home ownership, we would be hypocrites if we ignored the issues that impact this neighborhood." Heydt went on to attack Muhlenberg's apparent shady opposition, claiming the college tried to "intimidate" him, published "full page ads in the newspaper containing inaccuracies and outright lies" and threatened both legal action and a boycott of non-compliant Allentown businesses. An unnamed resident shared this sentiment, saying the College will "say anything" to defeat Ordinance 59. They continued, saying, "on the one hand they are bullying you and on the other hand they are portraying the victim of abuse."

The College obviously didn't like such accusations, and stood their ground saying the ordinance was "discriminatory" to Muhlenberg students. Student Body president David Silber '98 claimed that the students were not rowdy, and instead "enjoy[ed] being part of the City of Allentown." Lauren Ravit, Student Body Finance Chairperson, added to the discussion, telling Allentown residents that they "do not have a right to choose your neighbors." The article ended on an optimistic note, telling readers that "can now look forward to the privileges and experiences of living off-campus." This statement, however, would be challenged sooner than the College thought. In the same issue, the Student Council gave some tips to students living off-campus, including "introduce yourself," "give them your phone number" and "if you have a party, encourage your friends to use your back door."

Two weeks after the College declared victory, the October 23 headline was a full reversal, reading "City council ordinance limits off-campus housing." The first line of the article shares the same sentiment, reading "what first seemed like a Muhlenberg victory quickly turned into a Muhlenberg defeat." The article went on the explain that after a vote on a revised version of Ordinance 59 passed by a vote of 4-3, the College tried, and failed, to appeal the legality of the procedure used for the revote. The legality of the proceedings came into question after the return of councilman Ernest Toth. Toth was on vacation during the initial vote and, after expressing his disapproval in the result, called for amendments to be made to the ordinance and for a new vote to be made. After two minor amendments, the bill was reintroduced as new legislation. The College claimed the vote should be blocked because the council "did not give 30 days notice required to institute a piece of legislation." College representatives like counsel Maxwell Davidson doubled down on their opposition, claiming the legislation is "unconstitutional" because it "discriminates against students."

The salt to the wound came when it was revealed that the amendments and re-vote only came about after the College refused a compromise with the council and surrounding residents. The agreement would decrease the zoning region, allowing more unregulated houses. In turn, the college would "decrease the number of off-campus students by 36 over the next seven years." Then President Taylor would go on to reject this compromise. Then Vice President of Public Relations Mike Bruckner claimed the compromised was "unfair," and the College would "rather stand in opposition to a bad ordinance than accept a bad agreement." With the agreement being decline, the ordinance continued to move up Allentown government.

Though the ordinance had officially passed, the problem was far from solved. The October 30, 1997 issue featured an article which started "it appears as though the community and Muhlenberg College are at war with one another in the west end of Allentown."

Surrounding residents felt as though the problem still persisted, and that the influx of students had created "problems and disturbances" that they could "just not handle any longer." Mayor Heydt again sided with the residents of Allentown while also recognizing the importance of Muhlenberg to the city. Muhlenberg students called the ordinance "ridiculous," and claimed that they felt "threatened by Allentown residents." Again, talks of boycotts resurfaced, to which Mayor Heydt replied, "It doesn't make any sense. If you boycott our city would you not want our fire trucks to come, or for us to send our ambulances?"

With the College seemingly resigned to its fate, the conversation ended there. Though the College fought tooth and nail 20 years ago, their approach is much more passive this time. In an interview with the Morning Call, Dean Gulati said that the college was neither endorsing nor opposing the expansion, saying, "These are students, and we're trying to teach them to be adults," she said.

Though the result of the present expansion is still unsure, let's all hope Muhlenberg's new backseat approach causes much less waves through the Allentown community.

Kathryn Taylor speaks to students after the ordinance initially failed.

Photo courtesy of The Muhlenberg Weekly

Arts & Culture

“Art, in itself, is an attempt to bring order out of chaos.”
— Stephen Sondheim

A walk in the Park

Photos Courtesy of Scott Snyder

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

The stage is like a painting. A green hill grows out of the black Empie Theater floor, sloping towards a bright blue sky, pale-toned light playing on the imagined grass as if peeking through a grove of trees. Three staggered frames form a sort of picture-box, a stereoscope torn from the turn of the last century, and transform each seat into a prime spot to view the gallery of work which will soon pass in front of an eager audience’s eyes. This is more than theater—this is art.

Of course, for the students and faculty behind this fall’s mainstage production of *Sunday in the Park with George*, art is just what they intend to be. Running from Oct. 27 to 29 and Nov. 2 to 5, this 1984 musical by the legendary composing/scriptwriting duo Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine takes its audience on a journey through two parallel time periods, both exploring the ways in which art interacts with the daily demands of life. Because of this span across centuries, each cast member, including Evan Brooks ’18, who brings to life the play’s eponymous character, must shoulder the experiences of two separate personas.

“[I play] the 19th century pointillist painter Georges Seurat and George, a young, ambitious, kindhearted artist. Both George’s lives and actions are motivated by their creation of art,” Brooks said. “I have a deep love for Sondheim and so being able to perform in my third Sondheim [show] has been a complete joy.”

Though Brooks takes on the task of portraying a liminal artist, caught between the need to create imagined worlds and the need to live in a real one, some of the other cast members, like Kelly Shannon ’18, must step into the art itself to find their characters.

“[The show] centers around [Seurat’s] work, ‘A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte,’” Shannon said. “My character is Dot in the first act. She is Georges’ mistress and lover … [and also] models for his paintings. In ‘A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte,’ she is the woman with the huge bustle … in the foreground of the painting on the right side. She’s wearing a lot of purple and black. She has a monkey attached to her and a black parasol … The first act focuses on the development of this painting based on his observations and perceptions of people who are wandering about the park, and what it ends up becoming is a love story, not only … between artists and their work, but also between artists and the people that are around them.”

“ … Even without the music in the show, I would come just to see the images [Peck] has enabled us to create.”

Both Brooks and Shannon are fascinated by the ways in which the musical’s two time periods weave together into one seamless narrative.

“In the second act, I play Marie, who is … second-act George’s grandmother, and first-act Georges’ daughter,” Shannon said. “The second act is about Georges Seurat’s great-grandson, who is also named George, and him trying to figure out how to balance keeping up a certain novelty in his art and also becoming involved with the more professional side of being an artist, and having to deal with the financial aspects of it. He’s very good at navigating the art-social world, but he finds that … he ends up losing some of his inspiration in the process and becoming … a little bit depressed ... It ends up being a wonderful connection between these two time periods … there’s this wonderful trans-generational development of learning how to balance art and life between these multiple generations of people, and what you learn by the end is just so fascinating to watch.”

The characters as they appear in the show, though certainly inspired by the life of Seurat, have an interesting relationship to his true story, according to director and theatre professor Jim Peck.

“The details of Seurat’s approach to painting and his place in the 1880s Paris art scene are all accurate. The account of his relationship with Dot is largely fictional,” said Peck. “Dot is loosely based on Seurat’s real-life mistress Madeleine Knobloch. She posed for his painting Young Woman Powdering Herself (as does Dot) … but the specifics of their affair ... were invented by Sondheim and Lapine.”

Shannon insists that it is Peck’s attention to detail combined with the cast and crew’s talents and dedication that truly make this production remarkable.

“Jim [Peck] is a wonderful and collaborative director, and even without the music in the show, I would come just to see the images he has enabled us to create,” Shannon said.

Whilst observing one rehearsal during tech week, I was able to witness the painstaking manner in which these images were put together. As Bree Ogaldez ’18 and Brandan Skahill ’18 stepped up onto the green platform and began to perform a duet about one of Seurat’s paintings, Peck adjusted their movements with an eye for symmetry and cohesion, ensuring that each actor was moving towards exactly the right spot at exactly the right time. When Gabrielle Hines ’18 and Chris Torres ’18, who play the same roles, switched out to perform a comic moment simultaneously, the theatre full of fellow cast and crew members erupted with laughter.

Later, Brooks and Shannon entered a scene from opposite sides of the stage, each focused on their own trajectory and task. “You guys are coming on together,” Peck reminded the pair. “Make eye contact.” With this simple note in mind, the actors reset their positions and walked on stage in perfect sync, connected—a testament to the level of detail required to perfectly tie together a scene, land a joke, or create an intentional moment.

“I’m excited for people to see and hear the work of my collaborators,” Peck said. “The score is breathtaking, the actor/singers are astounding, and the design is a sumptuous visual feast based on one of the most admired art works of the last hundred and fifty years. This is an extremely difficult musical, challenging on every level, and not many undergraduate colleges would even attempt it. It’s an honor and joy to work with students, faculty, professional staff and guest artists who have the level [of] skill needed to assay a piece like this. Everyone involved is rising to the occasion.”

Make sure to buy your tickets for *Sunday in the Park with George* before that final Sunday arrives—this occasion is one that you won’t want to miss.

Tackling prejudice through comedy and poetry: Dr. Javier Ávila

Arielle Waxman/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Dr. Javier Ávila stands before the crowd as he explores the discourse behind his name.

By Ellen Powers
Contributing Writer

Last Thursday, Dr. Javier Ávila visited Muhlenberg to perform his one man show, "The Trouble with My Name," which brought Puerto Rican culture and the struggle of Puerto Ricans who move to the continental United States to the forefront of the audience's minds. Through his performance, Dr. Ávila used poetry and a satirical sense of humor, which kept the audience entertained, while also effectively conveying his message. The show is largely autobiographical.

Ávila is currently a professor of English at Northampton Community College. His work there earned him an award for the Pennsylvania Professor of the Year in 2015, which was sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. In 2008, the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education awarded Ávila the Outstanding Latino Cultural Arts, Literary Arts and Publication Award.

"The Trouble with My Name" begins with Ávila's recounting of his early life, as he realized how his skin color would be perceived as different races depending on who he was with and where he was. Ávila frequently discussed the importance education had in his life throughout his performance. He explained that his father sent him to the American Military Academy because he wanted Ávila to learn English. However, Ávila explained that he was made fun of for speaking English when he attended the University of Puerto Rico. This instance was the point in which Ávila began making comparisons between Puerto Rican culture and the culture of the continental United States, and he explained how Puerto Ricans were perceived in the United States, bringing up the point, "What if you speak Spanish where you shouldn't?" to express this difference.

Ávila addressed the conflict between Puerto Ricans and white Americans frequently, largely through personal anecdotes of his own encounters with racism and imposed stereotypes. He did an excellent job of balancing this difficult topic of race with his satirical sense of humor. Ávila explained that Puerto Ricans often "have to prove to the majority that they are not … stereotypes."

Through his poems, such as "Denied Service and Accent," Ávila discussed how Puerto Ricans are often perceived solely based on the stereotypes of them and other Latino people, which leads to a greater divide between the races, even when people like Ávila's father and uncle served in the military during the wars in Korea and Vietnam just like many other Americans.

The theme of family was particularly prominent throughout Ávila's performance, as he discussed the impact his grandmother, father and mother all had on his life through more of his anecdotes, as well as more of his poems, such as "Notes on the Death of my Father" and "Teaching Statement." He also brought social media into the conversation, exploring the concept of reality in contrast with a "social reality."

At the peak of his performance, Ávila recited his poem "The Trouble with My Name," which captured the struggles of Puerto Ricans experiencing various pronunciations of their names and how they, in a sense, "become many people every day."

In this section of the performance, Ávila also emphasized the need for hope, the importance of representation in the media and in real life and the importance of educating people.

He also discussed the concept of privilege and how "Back in the Good Old Days," it was only good for white Americans. Through his final poem, "Bloodline," which he dedicated to his son, Oscar, he emphasized how his son was a mix of multiple races, both white and Puerto Rican, and how his son's generation was the future of America.

Ávila's stories seemed to resonate with the audience, and he seemed to enlighten them on topics they may not have normally considered or have been informed about. As Celia Bowers '21 described, many of the stories Ávila told "seemed impossible to me because I've never experienced those things, but for some people, this is everyday life." Kerry Sullivan '21 explained that Ávila's stories helped her understand that "there were all these basic things that I feel like everyone knows, but when he brought it up, I realized there are so many people who don't realize these things."

Many of the anecdotes and poems Ávila provided were entertaining to his audience of community members and students, but the larger messages also had an impact on them. Bowers explained that "It was refreshing to show that anyone can fall into a belief of 'this is what I see,' but if they're not exposed to other things, then they can't imagine that it's different anywhere else unless it is explained to them."

When asked about his message, Sullivan explained that "I feel like what I took away … was a sense of hope for what we can do and how we need to educate people. I think it's super important to culturally educate America and to make sure everyone can understand other people, and it's through discussions like this that you can start to understand others and educate."

Dr. Javier Ávila's "The Trouble with my Name" brought many important issues surrounding race and the relation between Puerto Rico and the continental United States into conversation, thus serving as a springboard for continuing conversations that surround these issues.

Students take control with Red Door Play Festival

By Brooke Greenberg
Contributing Writer

From page to stage, Muhlenberg's Red Doors will be featuring a full lineup of student-directed, produced, stage managed and acted shows from Nov. 17-19. The Red Doors will feature 11 plays in this semester's installment.

However, unlike the Muhlenberg mainstage performances, Red Doors bring a more intimate feel to the theatre community by showcasing the theatre performances in the Red Door Lounge in the basement of Seegers Union. Katherine McGuire '20 has been featured in two Red Doors shows, one in the fall and one in the spring, and has been promoted to being a coordinator for the event. McGuire noted that the laid-back feel of the audition sets the vibe for the whole showcase.

"We have a wide range of different shows: we have comedy, we have drama, we have mystery."

"The audition process is in front of a panel. All of the directors sit in a circle and an auditioner comes in and they have one minute to say a monologue and two minutes to do an immediate call-back from the directors. So, directors will be like, 'Oh, can you say it this way or can you read this side [of a character] for me.'"

The audition process is precisely three minutes, which helps with the speed and ensuring every actor has a fair chance of getting equal acting time throughout the audition. This year, there were 75 actors that auditioned, and 35 were cast. Most actors in the Red Doors are freshmen and sophomores.

McGuire's role is not a task for the weak. She has to select all the shows, facilitate the auditions and help check in on rehearsals, schedule rehearsal times and book spaces, run tech week, talk to actors and directors and run the shows throughout the weekend. McGuire's other duty involves purchasing the rights for the shows that are not student-written. Nine out of the 11 shows are written by professional playwrights and two are student-written. For the student-written shows, it is the first time they will ever be performed in front of an audience. Excitingly enough, one of the student written shows is being directed by Daliah Bernstein '21.

"Red Doors is a great place to gain experience," said McGuire. Students apply to be directors or stage managers. "There are no pre-requisites, you don't need to have anything before. You don't have to have been a stage manager before or have acting experience."

The shows vary in length from 10 to 35 minutes, with each one being extremely different from the last. With its coffee-house like setting and vibe, there is no doubt the play festival will be a hit amongst Muhlenberg students. "We have a wide range of different shows: we have comedy, we have drama, we have mystery. It's a good range of different types of shows, I have really great directors and the casting always blows my mind," said McGuire. McGuire also notes how the array of talent at Muhlenberg, simply from sitting in on the auditions, is unforeseeable. "Between the combination of really great works, really great actors and really great directors, I think it's going to be extremely successful."

Crime and expectation

ARIELLE WAXMAN/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

From left: speakers Reggie Shuford, Dr. Hasshan Batts, Rev. Dr. Greg Edwards, Brittany White and Mark Walters address the congregation.

BY LAUREN D. MAZUR
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Crime, justice, rights, innocence, guilt, do-no-wrong, see-no-wrong and punishment. These are words that may (or may not) come to mind when considering America's judicial system. All of these terms, though, refer to a sense of order and fairness; the law favors no individual above others, for it simply is. This is a very objective viewpoint in which law, state and government are on equal footing and levels of understanding. What it lacks, though, is the human element many say—or, to be frank, there is an untold (buried) reality of the situation. For many, the words that arise from considering America's judicial system are oppression rather than justice, denial in the face of guilt, expectation over crime and punishment—well, that remains. Punishment, rather than being a case of justice, is often a case of systematic levels of control based not on action but rather the color of one's skin.

On Oct. 22, Sunday afternoon to early evening, I was able to witness a meeting of mass importance and understanding, titled "Unpacking Mass Incarceration," at the Resurrected Life Community Church in Allentown.

Mass incarceration is not simply a state of the country, nor is it 'fair punishment' by any means. It is not an accident or even new, but systematic and intentional genocide; mass incarceration is the human rights issue of the time.

Sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) as well as POWER Northeast, the goal was to bring awareness to the Allentown community over the issue of mass incarceration.

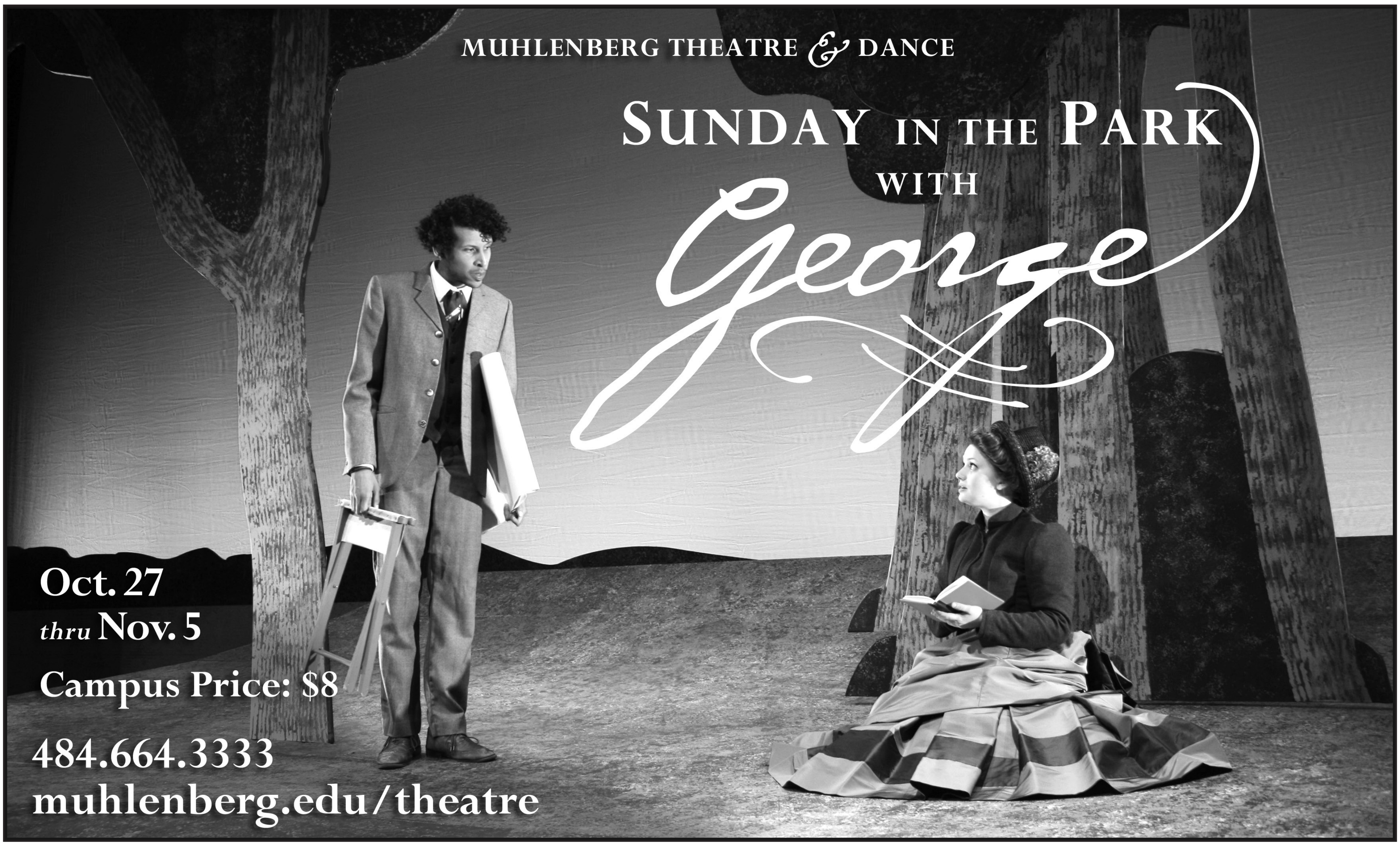
The speakers featured were Mark Walters, Reggie Shufford, Brittany White, Dr. Hasshan Batts and Rev. Dr. Greg Edwards, all of whom spoke of both their personal encounters with mass incarceration as well as its historical context and how it plays a larger role in the justice system. The talk began with a series of frightening statistics that showed that an African-American man is more likely to end up in incarceration than a white man who committed the same crime. Various stories and experiences were told of the racial dynamic that is heavily involved in the process of imprisonment, yet this is continually ignored and denied by officials as 'deserved' punishment. Struggles behind and beyond jail bars were discussed and explained as a kind of life sentence no matter what jail time is given. Whether you're in jail for two weeks or two years, once you are labeled a convicted criminal, it is near impossible for you to find a job. You are released on no income, with only the clothes on your back and a glance from your jailor who says, 'See you soon' as you leave. The time you pay doesn't matter; our justice system runs based on punishment — not rehabilitation.

A similar line of dialogue continues as White describes the book "The Isis Papers"—specifically on its definition of 'white supremacy.' Rather than be defined as a 'claim of the majority,' it is explained as a case of minority typecast and pseudo-name groups, who outnumber and potentially overpower the self-proclaimed 'white majority.' White supremacy is a reaction to a shift in societal class; it is more of a case of fear and overcompensation than supremacy. Racism "is a universal operating system of white supremacy and domination in which the majority of the world's white people participate," as described in Dr. Frances Cress Welsing's "The Cress Theory of Color-Confrontation and Racism" from "The Isis Papers." What was further clarified by the speakers was the reality of the situation itself. Again, mass incarceration is not only intentional and consciously systematized, but it is further enforced with morals as well as asserted upon for profit.

Prisons themselves are an economy; private prisons specifically run on the incarceration of impoverished people. The poorer you are, the longer you're in — it has nothing to do with the weight of the crime itself. A video titled "Adam Ruins Everything—the shocking way private prisons make money" has more information on this specifically, giving a clear overview of how private prisons started and why they are such an issue state and local wise.

The talk also brought up another issue of note that applies more to how certain individuals can help in the cause to end mass incarceration.

It is encouraged to disrupt the norm. Don't be afraid to question a situation. At the moment, the greatest crime the majority of the 'unaffected' can commit is that of ignorance and, in turn, false assumption.



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Unfinished business for Muhlenberg's first All-American wrestler

A Muhlenberg alum has returned to coach the team he once competed for

By Josh Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

On Oct. 16th, Muhlenberg wrestling alum Jason McLean was named head wrestling coach, after the surprising resignation of previous head coach Shaun Lally in late September.

The wrestling squad of 26 student-athletes has been routinely practicing since the start of the school year under Lally. Since McLean's arrival, the team's practice routines and preparation for the upcoming season has not seen any substantial changes. With a particularly young squad, McLean noted that, "We didn't want to change too much. Wrestling is wrestling." The main concentrations of the squad while preparing for this season are "intensity, organization, game planning, and working towards micro goals, as well as fine tuning individuals strong points."

Coach McLean is ecstatic to work with assistant coaches Andrew Drake, Sonnieboy Blanco and Nick Sanko and praises their enthusiasm and dedication to growing the Muhlenberg wrestling program for this upcoming season and for the future. Coming into his new job ,McLean had known Coach Drake personally and was familiar with Coach Blanco's and Coach Sanko's successes on and off the mat. "I knew Coach Drake and was aware of his unbridled enthusiasm for the program. It is hard to top his dedication and commitment. Although I hadn't met him, I was also aware of Sonnieboy's accomplishments and overall journey, both on and off the mat. I am familiar with a few of his mentors and coaches. He comes from good stock and is going to be an integral part our success. The same thing goes for Coach Sanko; his reputation precedes him. These guys are special; they have dedicated themselves to a journey that is not the most glamorous or possibly appreciated. Selfless and committed would probably be accurate descriptions."

Meeting 26 new faces in a short period of time is no easy task, but McLean is putting forth his best effort to get to know each member of the wrestling program individually. McLean confesses, "I may mess up a name from time to time." However, he added, "The best way to get me remember is to let your body of work speak for itself. Each guy is putting their best efforts forward." McLean has gotten to know members of the team outside of a wrestling environment. "I've sat down and ate with some, hung around the room after practice with others and walked across campus with a couple. Although we are a team, I've got to get to know each individually in order to hold us together and build a strong team."

McLean has put forth several goals for the program, which he wants to have a strong showing during its first match at Kings College to show the Centennial Conference that they are no longer basement dwellers. McLean wants to build off the match at Kings and hopes that the program has another strong showing at Muhlenberg's Scotty Wood Duals. Additionally, he hopes the team will post "a winning record and get some guys ranked in region and possibly nationally," while focusing on "improving as individuals and continuing to add depth and talent to the program."

This is McLean's first collegiate coaching job after successfully re-establishing the wrestling program at New Brunswick High School in New Jersey. McLean sees many similarities in coaching this young, up-and-coming Muhlenberg squad and is looking to share his coaching philosophies with his new team. "I started the program at New Brunswick HS so I knew every little detail or had to learn on the fly. I have had to pay attention to little things that can impede or allow for success. I have had to keep a positive attitude at the worst times because my team depended on me and I wanted them to stay focused and positive. These guys here need a coach and leader that is going to help them conquer the mental part and get to the podium." McLean also prides himself on focusing on the team's prosperity away from competition. At New Brunswick, McLean exclaims that he was "a stickler about academics." He will also "hold our Mules responsible for their diets, work ethic, and decisions on and off the mats. Although there are distinct differences from the high school and college level, such as more travel, less weight classes and stiffer competition," McLean feels that, "for me there are more similarities than differences."

As an accomplished Muhlenberg wrestling alum, McLean is beyond excited to return to Muhlenberg and take over the wrestling program, ultimately hoping to bring the program to a higher level. "There is a little bit of welcomed pressure that I am excited for. This is an opportunity to take Muhlenberg Wrestling to new heights and expand the overall program. There's a serious amount of work involved and we will have some hiccups. I welcome the challenge and am committed to make Muhlenberg a relevant part of the national wrestling scene. My emotions got the best of me when Corey [Goff] made me aware that I'd be the next head coach at Muhlenberg. Oddly enough, I was excited to be a Mule again."

McLean and the coaching staff's dedication to growing the wrestling program ensures that the Mules will have a successful season and will continue to make progress as a program in the future. McLean's experience both as a Muhlenberg student-athlete and as a coach will surely be beneficial to the program.

On the soccer pitch, their goal is to stop yours

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

Figuring out a proper preparation strategy for game day can be a daunting task for any student athlete. This past week, the Muhlenberg soccer program's goalies prepared just as usual, and that preparation paid off in the form of a Centennial Conference Player of the Week award. Men's and Women's Muhlenberg keepers, Jordan Schreer '19 and Libby Juliano '20, were recognized by the conference after their stellar play guarding their respective nets.

As for that preparation, the two agreed that consistency is key. "My preparation for each game stays relatively the same," said Juliano. Schreer concurred. "My preparation heading into these games was just like every other game. I stepped onto the field motivated and ready to do my job, and like always, I trusted the players in front of me to do what they needed to do as well." And of course, no pregame preparation can be complete without some good tunes for long bus rides to away games. "McDaniel was a long travel day, so on the bus I listened to plenty of music and watched a movie. Nothing out of the usual," added Juliano.

Schreer and the men's team finished the week 1-0-1 after tying Dickinson and beating McDaniel. Schreer's contributions included a nine save effort against Dickinson, which was a career high for the junior. "I am probably most proud of my shot stopping, especially in the game against Dickinson," Schreer said. "It is fair to say I made a save or two that on another day I may have not saved." He also made four saves against McDaniel, with two of them coming in the second overtime, the period in which the Mules scored the game winning goal with under a minute left. "I think the part of my game that shined the most was my reaction saves, it is definitely one of the most difficult things to do as a goalkeeper, but when you get it right there is no better feeling," Schreer added.

Overall, he finished the week with a .929 save percentage and 0.41 goal against average.

Juliano played all 220 minutes for the Lady Mules in the net this past week as well totaling two ties, 1-1 against Kean and 0-0 against McDaniel. She totaled 17 saves on the week, stopping seven against Kean and 10 at McDaniel. "I am most proud of staying confident in myself and keeping my head in the game," said Juliano. Her McDaniel performance also gained Juliano her fourth shutout of the season, and her first shutout against a regionally ranked team this season. "I think my ability to cut off angles on shots and corner kicks really helped in our game against McDaniel." Both of the women's opponents had 10 wins, and Juliano still only allowed one opposing shot to reach the back of the net.

Arielle Waxman/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Mules keeper Jordan Schreer '19 boots a punt after making a save.

As for the remainder of the season the two look to continue their solid efforts they have put together not only this week, but the whole season. For Schreer, that means continuing to lead the conference in saves and holding the third highest save percentage in league games. Juliano also has some impressive stats to uphold. As of the last update, she was 19th in all of Division III in save percentages (.896), and she leads the Centennial Conference in goals-against average (0.60) among qualifiers.

FROM PLAN
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Saoji - have previous experience developing educational campuses. Some of their previous work includes Virginia State, Germantown Academy and The Haverford School. Most notably in the local area, WRT was responsible for the SteelStacks Arts and Cultural Campus in nearby Bethlehem which re-forged "a cultural link to the manufacturing heart of the Lehigh Valley."

The firm's experience working in urban environments is essential to Muhlenberg's expansion ideas. Being that campus is nestled in the West End of Allentown, there is little room for campus to grow and few options for Muhlenberg to buy more property without making the campus noncontiguous. The physical limits of Muhlenberg's location are perhaps felt by athletics the most.

Members of WRT's team first met with what they call "student-athlete mentors" on Friday, Sept. 15 of this year. Most athletic teams were represented by at least one student athlete per team. This campus meeting, along with others held with different student groups throughout the day, were part of the campus outreach and engagement process that WRT undergoes when creating a plan.

The student group session with athletes highlighted the need for additional practice fields for both varsity athletics and recreational, or club, sports. But for the student-athletes involved, it became a fight over Scotty Wood Stadium and Varsity Field. Scotty Wood Stadium houses both the football field and the outdoor track. Aside from the football team, field hockey and men's and women's lacrosse also play their home contests on Frank Marino Field. Men's and women's soccer are the only teams that use both Varsity Field and the practice field next to it, although throwers of the track team use it occasionally during their field events during meets as well.

According to Corey Goff, Muhlenberg's Athletic Director, the greatest area of deficiency, from a facility standpoint, right now is space. Looking at the outdoor team sports, there is the largest amount of space on campus devoted to the two grass fields, which is being used by a total of two teams. Between men's soccer and women's soccer, in a given year, there are about 50 student athletes using double the size of space that's being used by probably 200 student athletes.

But like most facilities, from the eyes of Muhlenberg athletes, even the soccer fields are imperfect.

"At the meeting many teams talked about possibly getting a turf field to replace the grass soccer fields," said Zachary Cimring '20, a member of the men's soccer team. "The uneven playing surface has caused many injuries, it decreases the quality and art of the game and, when it rains, the grass fields are unplayable, forcing teams to share the one turf field. This messes with practice schedules and forces teams to practice really late at night. I really hope the administrators see how not having a turf soccer field is affecting not just our athletic lives but our academic lives as well."

For the baseball and softball teams, the issue is bigger than upgrading the athletic facilities on campus. While changing the soccer fields from grass to turf would benefit athletics greatly, it does nothing to help the grievances of some other Muhlenberg's teams. Aside from the golf teams, baseball and softball are the only varsity sports that do not have a facility on campus; the difference between baseball, softball and golf is that the combined men's and women's golf teams roster about 15 students, which softball and baseball combine for over 50.

"There is a huge discrepancy in field quality between baseball and softball and the rest of the teams," said Kristy Selby '19, a member of the softball team. "We do not own our field, so we do not get first dibs on it; we can get kicked off because the county wants to host tournaments or do something that will make them more money. There's no contract holding them to us so there's no security. Our field is also used by people who do not take care of it properly, but making changes to the field would not make sense financially. It is not up to either the standards of our conference or even the standards of the college."

"It's hard to listen to other athletes from other sports talk about their issues because the baseball and softball teams should have their voices heard the most," said Chris Grillo '19, a member of the baseball team. "We play on fields that are by far the worst in the conference, in terms of the actual playing surface as well as the facilities around the field. We have been begging for years for something to be done and it seems as though every meeting ends with no actual change."

Grillo continued, "Now, as a junior, it seems as though we will continue to suffer with unacceptable and embarrassing playing fields. And the funny thing is, none of our fellow students or faculty can sympathize with the baseball or softball teams because almost all of them have never been to our fields. It's frustrating to speak our minds about something that means a whole lot to us and nothing ever gets done about it."

Goff, who served as Muhlenberg baseball's head coach before becoming Athletic Director, said this in regard to the baseball/softball issue, "I believe in benchmarking against the schools that we compete with. For baseball and softball, for example, I would love for Muhlenberg to be able to provide on campus facilities. The reality is that most small colleges haven't been willing to allocate the space for the limited number of students it impacts for the limited number of time it impacts them. Having a facility off campus is not the issue for baseball and softball the issue is that we don't have an adequate facility, even the one that's off campus."

Aside from playing surfaces, students at the meeting also brought up ideas to improve the Life Sports Center on campus, or commonly known as the LSC. Student-Athletes expressed interest in ideas such as a Varsity Sports weight room, which many colleges and universities utilize. Also, getting rid of the pool was an idea pitched due the apparent lack of use which the space currently sees. The racquetball court space seemed to be a popular area in which student-athletes at Muhlenberg saw potential. One student athlete suggested artificially turfing that space which could be used by student athletes on days where the weather is poor, or as an extension of the field house which is frequently used by in and out of season teams to warm up and condition before workouts. Some even expressed their displeasure with the lack of ventilation in the field house with many expressing that at times they felt it was so muggy that breathing was a struggle during workouts.

With each athletic team wanting changes implemented that benefit their own team, it will be difficult for the Athletic Department to pick and choose which projects get the necessary time, money and space.

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FROM **CC MEET**
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with the team's performance thus far this year. Furthermore, he has taken note of some of the more underrated runners on the team.

"The team has jelled very well this fall and over the next couple of weeks we anticipate that they will come together and perform to the best of their abilities," said Hackett. When talking about some of the up-and-coming runners on the team, he added, "We have had some young athletes really step up this fall - sophomores Jason Richwall '20 on the men's team and sophomores Alyssa Curtis, Victoria Cabellos '20 and Nicole Gibki '20 on the women's team."

Now that the regular season meets have concluded, it is time for the team to look forward to its postseason competition. Because of the standout performances of many Mules cross-country runners this fall, there are expected to be several Mules represented at the conference, regional, and even national meets. Pacilio talked about all those who possibly might qualify for these meets.

"There is no way to really tell how well a single person will perform on any given day. The teams have all been working very hard all season in order to ensure the best performance for the conference and regional meets. In terms of qualifying for nationals, it looks like we will have two teammates returning to the national qualifier from last year (Mullins and Pacilio). That being said, there is also a big possibility that other team members in the top 5 will step up and qualify for, or will be wild carded into the national meet. On the men's team, sophomore Jason Richwall and senior Anthony Calantoni both have had very good races this season so there is a chance you will see one or both of them at the national meet as well," said Pacilio.

Although the cross-country season soon will come to a close, the nature of the sport allows these runners to simply carry over into the winter track & field season. Pacilio recognizes that the best is yet to come for this rendition of Mule runners.

"As this cross country season comes to a close, I think that we are all looking forward to the big meets to come; conferences, regionals and nationals! I am confident that the team will perform well. Looking even farther into the future, Winter Track looks like it will be a very promising season as well which many of us are also excited for."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
SPORTS
Thursday, October 26, 2017

Two multi-goal games fuel Mules

Photo Courtesy of Muhllenberg Athletics

Recently named a Centennial Conference Player of the Week, Kevin Irving '19, on the attack for the Mules.

By Max Shapiro
Contributing Writer

The Men's Soccer team's Kevin Irving '19 received some individual recognition this past week, as the junior midfielder was named the Centennial Conference Player of the Week. Irving, who previously held a career total of only two goals, scored twice against Moravian in a 3-1 victory on Oct. 11. He followed that performance up with another strong performance during the team's 3-0 shutout against Ursinus just three days later. The team's go-ahead and insurance goals both came from the foot of Irving in the Moravian game. He left this mark on the Ursinus matchup early, thrusting the Mules ahead just 5:15 into the match with his third goal of the week. Irving's fourth goal of the week came with about 20 minutes left against Ursinus and helped seal the Mules' first CC win of the season. His four goals were scored on an efficient nine shots and made Irving the team's leading scorer with five goals on the year. He is also the first player to score back-to-back multiple-goal games since the 2010 season. For the year, Irving also is tied for seventh in the Centennial Conference in goals scored. The award is the first of Irving's career, as well as the third honor for the team this season, with Jordan Schreer '19 winning the honor two separate weeks this year. Irving has been rock solid in the Mules midfield this year, starting all but one game this season and playing full time in most matches.

Currently, the men are riding a four game unbeaten streak, which includes wins against Moravian, as well as Centennial Conference opponents McDaniel and Ursinus. Their only non-victory during that stretch was a double overtime scoreless draw to Dickinson on Oct. 18.

The squad's next matchup will be a nighttime road showdown against Elizabethtown, followed by their last home game, against Washington College on Oct. 28. The Washington College game could have massive implications on the team's Centennial Conference playoff hopes, which are currently alive, but slim. They have taken their share of tough outcomes this season, especially within Centennial Conference play. They have been defeated in overtime three times on the year, as well as three other double overtime draws. The Mules exercised some of their overtime period demons in their win against McDaniel on Oct. 21, with their first win of the season via a late, double overtime strike from Matt Athanas-Linden '20. It's been a very up and down year for the team, with lots of highs and some lows. But they have kept fighting as a team no matter what. Despite a couple tough breaks, the team's effort has never wavered. "Our record thus far in the season doesn't accurately represent how we've played this year. We were in some very close games and it just so happened that we came out on the wrong end of them in overtime," said Irving. "If one or two of those games turned out in our favor our season would have been completely different. So right now we're just fighting for each other to get to a 500 record."

Cross-Country Runs This Town

By Alex Horowitz
Sports Editor

This fall, the Mules men's and women's cross country teams have put up dominating seasons, with some of the best runners in the history of the program having competed for the team this season. On Oct. 14 the team competed at its final regular season meet of the fall, which took place at Gettysburg College. Having already had familiarity with this course from prior races, Jamie Pacilio '18 was optimistic about how the team would fare in this meet. She especially emphasized the hope of using this meet as a stepping-stone for the conference meet, which would soon follow.

"The biggest goal for the team in the [Gettysburg] meet is to have as much consistent improvement as possible. We have a lot of team members coming back from injuries and sicknesses [at Gettysburg], so it will be great to see where everyone is at. [The Gettysburg meet] will be great preparation for our conference meet because it is at the same course," said Pacilio.

It turns out that both teams did, in fact, perform exceptionally well at the Gettysburg Invitational. The men's squad placed sixth out of 25 teams, and were fourth out of all Division III teams competing in the meet, according to the Muhlenberg Athletics website. The women's team fared very well too, ranking eighth out of 31 competing teams. Corey Mullins '19 and Anthony Calantoni '18 led the men, while Pacilio led the pack on the women's side.

Head cross-country and track & field coach Brad Hackett has been very impressed

see CC Meet | page 11

Moving Forward

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

"Going forward, building on our rich history and deep commitment to our students, Muhlenberg College also aims to realize more fully our potential to be recognized broadly as one of the nation's finest liberal arts college," wrote Muhlenberg's President John Williams in the College's new Strategic Plan. "Our plan is to strengthen our value and distinction by investing to develop ever more academic excellence, the vibrancy of the student experience, our diverse and inclusive community and the powerful outcome we help our students achieve. Above all, Muhlenberg will be recognized increasingly for bringing out our students' full intellectual and personal potential and for opening doors to their future possibilities in whatever pathways they choose to pursue."

Diluted, the Strategic Plan is essentially a wish-list of ideas. From improved residential life to expanded Wescoe School options, the plan acts as a guideline for future endeavors by the college.

The next step in the process of eventual campus improvement is the Muhlenberg College Campus Master Plan, which is being developed closely aligned with the Strategic Plan. While the Strategic Plan amounts to little more than words on paper, the Master Plan will become the way of implementing those changes.

That is where Wallace Roberts and Todd, or WRT Design, comes in. Based in Philadelphia, PA., WRT's team of planners, urban designers, architects and landscape architects have been entrusted with the organization of Muhlenberg's Master Plan. Some of those tasked with working with the Muhlenberg community- Charles Neer, Maarten Pesch and Yogesh

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Field Hockey	***Volleyball***	***Football***	***Men's Soccer***	***Women's Soccer***	***Women's Cross Country***	***Men's Cross Country***
VS	**VS**	**VS**	**VS**	**VS**	***Conference Championships***	***Conference Championships***
Fri. Oct. 27 at 7:00 pm	Sat. Oct. 28 at 1:00 pm	Sat. Oct. 28 at 2:00 pm	Sat. Oct. 28 at 4:00 pm	Sat. Oct. 28 at 7:00 pm	Sun. Oct. 29 at 11:00 am	Sun. Oct. 29 at 12:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium	Memorial Hall	Scotty Wood Stadium	Varsity Field	Varsity Field	@Gettysburg, PA	@Gettysburg, PA

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community Since 1883

The Muhlenberg Weekly

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2017 — VOLUME CXL, ISSUE 7

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College resists call for divestment

Board of Trustees show no immediate signs of re-allocating funds away from the declining fossil fuel industry

BY IAN ADLER
NEWS EDITOR

As fossil fuel stocks continue to decline and the earth's temperature continues to increase, one might expect the college's Board of Trustees to shift investments to the growing clean energy market. However, students from the Environmental Action Team (EnAct) would find no easy task in convincing the Board to hop on their campaign of "divestment."

"As a student at Muhlenberg, divestment for me is a way of protecting the stability of our financial engagements and our endowment," said Devin Domeyer '18, one of the organizers of the Muhlenberg divestment collective. "It's a moral imperative. It's something intrinsically tied to climate change, intrinsically tied to environmental racism and to Muhlenberg's Fundamental Institutional Values."

Those values state that "We are committed to being good citizens of the Earth, and to making institutional decisions that are mindful of our complex relations with the ecosystem." Ultimately, Domeyer and other students found it frustrating to leave the meeting with no commitments from the Board to adhere to those values.

This meeting, that occurred on Oct. 26, has not been the only effort to communicate with the Board of Trustees. In 2016, a group of students waited outside of a meeting and was soon invited in to share their plan. The following spring, Members of EnAct met with the investment committee to attempt to build a financial plan. It was at this meeting that the Environmental Social Governance (ESG) account was brought to their attention.

The ESG account is intended to contain companies that align with certain environmental, social and governance ratings set by Hirtle Callaghan, an outsourced financial planner. It contains 2.5 percent of the college endowment, according to Domeyer. "There's holdings in that portfolio that are companies that exclusively support fossil fuel industries," says Domeyer. "Basically, Muhlenberg has taken no steps to divest from fossil fuels."

At the most recent Board meeting, the students anticipated that their financial argument would be enough, with the mor-

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SRJ campaigns for awareness, action

BY ALI WATSON
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Muhlenberg Students for Reproductive Justice (SRJ) is a group of students dedicated to learning about and fighting for reproductive rights for all. SRJ are also members of Planned Parenthood Generation Action.

As described by the organization, the 'It's On Us' campaign aims "to recognize that non-consensual sex is sexual assault. To identify situations in which sexual assault may occur. To intervene in situations where consent has not or cannot be given. To create an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported."

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ACLU
NO OPTIO
SPEAKERS
MELVINE OUYO
AMOS SIMPANO
LISA SHANNON
#Fight4HER
OUR RIGHTS
GRABS

IAN ADLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

SRJ's table in Seegers featured literature and information on upcoming events.

Adminstrators weigh in on post-incident response

BY GREGORY KANTOR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Tuesday, Oct. 24, members of the on-campus Muhlenberg community were alerted to two separate incidents occurring within approximately an hour of each other.

Around 8:00 p.m., Campus Safety received a report of indecent exposure on Chew Street, near Egner Memorial Chapel.

Then, at 9:12 p.m., a separate emergency alert was sent out regarding a "crime in progress" and an order to shelter-in-place.

A student who was present when statements were given to both Campus Safety and the Allentown Police Department stated that the individuals took money from the students and were holding a gun.

Two other students saw the individuals laughing as they ran on the Benfer balconies. They left Benfer and began running up the hill behind Trexler Library and away from the dorm. Neither of the eyewitnesses recognized the two individuals in question or had seen them before on campus.

The Allentown Police Department could not be reached for comment about any updates to the investigation.

In the time between the initiation and lifting of the shelter-in-place directive, Campus Safety and the Allentown Police Department first conducted joint sweeps of publicly accessible buildings near Benfer, such as the Trexler Pavilion, the Center for the Arts and the library. From there, the officers cleared the rest of the public buildings on campus before issuing an all-clear at 11:17 p.m.

"We had a pretty high confidence level that the perpetrators were no longer on campus," said Brian Fidati, Director of Campus Safety. "But we still wanted to exercise an extra degree of caution for the safety of everyone on campus."

According to an email sent on Oct. 25 by Allison Gulati, Dean of Students, the incidents themselves resulted in no physical harm to any member of

SEE **INCIDENT** | PAGE 5

Editorial

It's your story – we're here to help you tell it

Last week, a banner was hung in Parents Plaza asked passersby "What does DIVERSITY mean to you?" While most responses were phrases such as "equality," "patience," "home," and "celebrating differences," in the bottom corner someone had written "fuck your privledge [sic]."

Although the banner has since been removed, Muhlenberg's problem with racial biases hasn't.

Even though the College tries to counter racial incidents and get students to recognize their own privileges with promotions of understanding such as the Sedehi Diversity project and talks by the enter for Ethics, racial inequalities still permeate the Muhlenbubble. And, quite frankly, students have every right to be upset about it.

Last month, founder of Black Lives Matter Canada Janaya Kahn's presence on campus received backlash on Facebook from alumni and students alike. Posters were placed around campus from the "Alternative Center for Ethics," with incorrect and misleading representations of Black Crime and the Black Lives Matter movement. Other students — both white and black — responded with their own posters. That same day, a group of students posted flyers titled Truth To Power that explained the goal of equality behind Black Lives Matter.

On Oct. 10, posters dotted the halls of Seegers with #BlackonBerg. Some posters included quotes promoting activism, while others featured stories of students' lived experiences of racial bias, such as: "My Dad pulled up to campus to pick me up for break. A white peer turned to me as I was moving towards my Dad's car to say, 'Wow, nice car. Does your Dad sell drugs?' My Dad is a lawyer."

Not two weeks before Janaya Kahn's visit, Bear Security, the College's contracted security company of 32 years, was fired after an officer exchanged racially charged words with a black student. This was, allegedly, not the first time an incident such as this had occurred at Muhlenberg.

Two years ago, racist Yik Yak posts prompted a college town hall, and later follow-up where students and faculty conducted an exercise on equality, equity, and privilege.

Our job as a student newspaper is not only to report on these instances, but to give a voice to the student body — to everyone in that body. The question has been raised, and often debated by our staff: how do we, as an entirely white editorial board, cover issues related to race on campus?

The answer is certainly not to turn a blind eye. Compliance and refusal to even discuss these issues is what makes them so dangerous in the first place. Yet, the very process of journalism is about one person telling another's story — a reporter goes out into the world, collects others' words and experiences, and weaves them together into a truthful and informative story.

Although every effort is made in journalistic tradition to remain objective and unbiased, there is something unsettling about a white man telling a black man's story.

The point is: these are not our stories. They are your stories. And we're here to help you tell them.

This is an outlet for everyone on campus to contribute to, not just regular writers. We encourage people of any race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural background, minority, majority--anyone--to contribute to this newspaper, even if it is just once.

If there is a story you think is worth telling, don't hesitate to reach out to us.

From the Editorial Board of
The Muhlenberg Weekly

Defining Coming Out Day

October Toilet Talk misconstrues the meaning of "coming out"

By Taylor Chase
Contributing Writer

I have grown up in the LGBTQ+ community. Even before I came out as queer (starting freshman year of college and then officially via Facebook on Coming Out Day this year), I was heavily involved as both an "ally" and as someone with two mothers. I've heard the misconceptions and I've been there as people yelled slurs at my family. I've been told that my family was wrong and unstable and therefore did not deserve the same rights as everyone else.

On Oct. 18 (a full week after Coming Out Day) I saw this month's Toilet Talk. After the student response to last year's blurb on Coming Out Day, I figured more attention would be paid this time around. Unfortunately, I was wrong – but I was not surprised. As soon as I saw the blurb I wrote something up on Facebook, but I wanted to share my thoughts with a broader audience as well.

The first issue I had with the blurb was that it touted Coming Out Day as a day "where we celebrate coming out as LGBTQ or an ally!" While I love allies and am all for them being loud and vocal about their support for our community, Coming Out Day is not for them. To state it as simply as possible, please never ever ever "come out" as an ally. Not only does it sound self-gratifying to proudly announce "look at me as I bravely stand up for the basic human rights of another human," but it minimizes the very real danger that many LGBTQ+ people face when coming out. Some people may stay in the closet their entire lives due to fear for their safety.

My second issue is when the blurb states "those who know someone who is LGBTQ are more likely to support lawful equality." I don't even know how to respond to that. What does a straight person's support of our basic human rights have to do with us celebrating our identities? I am fully aware that when you're LGBTQ+, everything you do is political. Coming out is in and of itself extremely political. However, the purpose of coming out is not usually to make a political statement In some instances it can be, which is certainly still very valid. I did not come out in the hopes that it would make others suddenly view LGBTQ+ people as valid human beings – I did it because I am queer and I am in a place where I am comfortable living publicly that way. You should support my rights because I'm human, not because you know I'm in this community.

Third– the fact that the statistics in the Toilet Talk are catered to straight people. "1 of every 2 Americans are close to someone who is lesbian or gay; 1 in 10 are close with a transgender person." Okay great. What about other groups within the LGBTQ+ community? Also, and even more importantly, why not focus on LGBTQ+ people themselves and give statistics on us? For example, listing what percentage of the population identifies within the LGBTQ+ community.

I have so many more thoughts, but honestly, I am tired. I am tired of fighting to be recognized as valid. A blurb like this had so much potential to assert the validity of those who are marginalized due to their gender and/or sexual identity, but instead it was written for the eyes of straight people. If straight allies need information to be overtly tailored to them in order to listen, they are not an ally. However, I will end this by addressing straight allies directly.

Straight allies – you are very important, but this day is not about you. This day is not about showing how many LGBTQ+ people you know. It is about us and us as we claim our identities. Do not reframe it as a day about LBGTQ+ people AND allies. If you are an ally that's great, but on Coming Out Day your only role is making sure we are safe and loved and validated and supported. And if that makes you angry or uncomfortable, or your reaction is "don't alienate your allies," then you are not a real ally.

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Taxes are taxing me

And taking away from my Wonder Bread™ finds

By Will Wamser
Senior Staff Writer

Right off the bat, let's get one thing straight, the government is a bunch of fat-cat, libertarian, dorkwad, oligarchic pigs and now they've made things worse. So, apparently, there are these things called "taxes," which, if you couldn't tell from the title of this article, they are taxing me. All of a sudden, the government has started making us hard-working everyday country boys pay them. You read that right, the government is stealing your cash every day of your gosh darn life. You can't even buy a loaf of Wonder Bread™ without having to give some of your hard-earned cash to those losers living in the white house. That's right, Billiam Clinton is skimming a little off the top every time you eat a sandwich made with that wonderful bread.

I can understand how this may be overwhelming for some of my younger readers, so let me lay it out for you in real simple terms. Every time you buy something, Big Brother picks your pocket and that's why the economy is bad. Things weren't always like this. Back in my day, everything costed a nickel, including a slice of pie, but now everything costs a bunch of nickels and who has that kind of coinage? I'll tell you who, it's those dictators living the high life in Washington while the rest of us have to slum it in places like Missouri or Scotland. Life was simple then; everything smelled of oak, Las Vegas wasn't so commercialized and I didn't have to think about people who didn't look like me, but the world changed when Clinton got greedy and passed the "Gimme Gimme Gimme Bill" of 2017, making it legal for Billiam Clinton to steal my wages.

I'm starting to think that we have to impeach this dummy, and he really is a dummy. I don't know if you guys know this, but Billiam "Bill" Clinton isn't actually the president, Dick Cheney is. But that's beside the point, the issue is that taxes are actually really illegal. If you are sitting there thinking "Taxes aren't that bad, the government needs cash too," well then let me remind you that we fought a war to keep from paying taxes. If you want to look at the widows and widowers of the soldiers who died in the Revolutionary War in the eyes and tell them that their hubbies all died for nothing because all of a sudden, the government "needs cash too," then be my guest. But as you are sitting there on your high horse, keep in mind that taxes are the invention of Winston Churchill, a communist, and if you are ok with that then I have some very bad news.

> **You read that right, the government is stealing your cash every day of your gosh darn life.**

I didn't want to be the one to break this to the world, but I suppose it is for the best that I, a respected newsperson, delivers this news. Here it is: the USA is officially England now. I hope that makes you jolly, mate. I, on the other hand, am not happy about this, which is why I am announcing my candidacy for Queen of England. I am running on the platform that I will make England the USA again, by getting rid of those bloody taxes and by making Wonder Bread™ the official bread of America, North and South. I am holding my first riot in York, which was once New York, and we will march towards Big Ben in New Donk City, which was the White House not but four sentences ago. Please come to support me, please, I need this. I'm asking nicely and I really want to be Queen of England so please just do me this one favor. If you can't make it, then you may as well unfriend me on Facebook. Most importantly, remember to vote Will Wamser for Queen of England and together we can stop Clinton from getting his grubby little hands all over our cash.

Incarceration and injustice for black America

Halting the inescapable cycle of mass incarceration

By Jordan Zucker
Contributing Writer

Last Sunday I was invited to attend a talk titled "Unpacking Mass Incarceration" at the Resurrected Life Community Church. Sitting in a wooden pew toward the back of the room, each of the five speakers described in detail their criminal backgrounds and offenses they had committed earlier in their lives. While I was stunned by some of these crimes (armed robbery, assault of a police officer, and gang activity), I respected the fact that each individual came forward to apologize for their crimes.

In front of a mostly white audience, I wasn't sure how receptive the crowd would be to the words spoken by the NAACP affiliates, but their applause let me know that they seek change as well. The group led a discussion which started with the statistic that, since 2002, the United States has the highest incarceration rate. What surprised me, however, was why there were so many citizens in prison. One of the lawyers on stage told the audience that over 80 percent of inmates who were being held in ederal prisons in Philadelphia were being held simply because their case had not been reviewed in front of a judge. Furthermore, the lawyer explained that blacks make up a disproportionate share of the prison population, with young black males being more than six times more likely to be incarcerated than a comparably aged white male.

In 2013, according to FBI Statistics, 2.5 million people who were black or African American were arrested; of those, 365,785 were arrested under drug abuse violation charges. According to the NAACP, African Americans represent 12.5 percent of illicit drug users, but 29 percent of those individuals were arrested for drug offenses and 33 percent of those were eventually incarcerated. This problem is exacerbated by mandatory minimum sentencing laws which came into effect under the "Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986."

Since the introduction of these laws in 1986, the U.S. prison population exploded from just over half a million people, to around 2.25 million Americans by the year 2010. While the crack and cocaine epidemic has largely faded away, many federal laws have yet to be changed to assist those who were originally imprisoned for marijuana related offenses. According to the New York Times, in 2015, "arrests for possessing small amounts of marijuana exceeded those for all violent crimes last year…" with "...574,641" citizens being arrested.

If we wish to shrink the prison population Mandatory Minimum Sentencing Laws must be reformed. Additionally, we should also create federally funded programs to educate and assist those who are repeat offenders. In federal prisons alone (2012), 12.4 percent of drug offenses were related to marijuana trafficking. While I personally feel uncomfortable with marijuana being used in public spaces, I still support responsibly legalizing and taxing the drug and removing marijuana from the Controlled Substance Schedules.

What comes after prison for most inmates, however, is not a fresh slate, but a tainted one. While I believe that longer prison sentences for violent crime offenders is absolutely necessary, there is no realistic way for those former criminals to get a job. Rehabilitation and reintegration cannot occur if our former prisoners have no viable options for employment, and employers discriminate against those individuals. According to the Brennan Center at NYU, a study found that "60 percent of formerly incarcerated people are unemployed after one year of release. Half of them end up back in a life of crime." Some states have introduced "ban the box" laws, which discourages or completely eliminates the ability for a business to ask about a potential employee's criminal record.

While I personally would be wary about hiring a former convict, and some believe it is unjust to reward those who have made poor choices, it is clear that this cycle is neverending. By stacking the odds overwhelmingly against former prisoners, they perpetually return to a life of crime, stress, and unemployment. It is necessary that American businesses step out of their comfort zones and give these people another chance; if employers don't, those men and women will return to their communities just as they were before.

If you dig deeper under the surface, you can see what these laws have done to black communities around America. According to the 2011 Census Bureau, 67 percent of all black children under 18 were living in single-parent families, and 73 percent of black births were considered "non-marital". Not growing up in a two-parent household can have incredibly detrimental effects on a child's livelihood and development, and makes them severely more likely to become affiliated in criminal activity. The Sentencing Project warned that, "if current trends continue, one of every three black American males born today can expect to go to prison in his lifetime." Although you would need a statistician to draw a correlation between this "1 in 3" statistic, and 67 percent of all black children being raised in single-parent households, it creates a very grim scenario.

It's plausible to suggest that drug enforcement laws and higher incarceration rates of blacks are tearing their communities apart, causing higher crime rates, affecting graduation rates, and essentially prohibiting re-employment after prison sentences. This deadly concoction of arrest rates, joblessness, and single-parent households continues to undermine the black community and cause widespread hopelessness.

In order to solve these problems, I think several initiatives need to take place to eliminate this inescapable cycle we are witnessing. I would like to see if "ban the box" initiatives would drastically reduce the unemployment rate of recently released prisoners in larger states like California, Texas, Florida, New York, etc.

The next thing I would suggest is to retroactively reduce sentences for those who have been incarcerated in both state and Federal prisons, and develop pipelines to help them find employment after they are released. Lastly, states and the federal government need to work together to help companies create jobs in inner cities where crime is most prevalent. In Chicago, for example, 47 percent of young black men are neither in school nor working, which has led many to pursue work in crime since it pays better than minimum wage opportunities in the area. A bleak situation for all involved, something must be done.

Campus Safety Notes

Tuesday, October 24
Harassment - 9:00 a.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of harassment. Residential Services was notified.

Sexual Assault - 7:00 p.m.
There was an incident of indecent exposure on Chew Street near the Chapel. Allentown Police has been notified, and patrols are in progress.

Robbery - 8:45 p.m.
In Benfer Hall, Second Floor, there was a report of people approaching a community member with what appeared to be a gun and asked for money. Allentown Police Department also responded.

Sick Employee - 12:13 p.m.
In the Wood Dining Commons in Seegers Union, there was a report of a sick employee. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the individual refused further treatment or transport.

Point of Information - 9:19 p.m.
In Benfer Hall, there was a report of suspicious individuals. The resident was spoken to, and the individuals were identified as visitors and spoken to.

Sick Student - 11:41 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and Allentown EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by Allentown EMS.

Wednesday, October 25
Alcohol Violation - 12:00 a.m.
In Benfer Hall, Second Floor, there was a report of possession of drug paraphernalia and alcohol violations. The items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in an evidence locker. The investigation is to continue.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 12:01 a.m.
In Robertson Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm triggered by burnt food. The system was silenced and reset.

Suspicious Activity - 1:03 a.m.
At Scotty Wood Stadium/Frank Marino Field, there was a report of a suspicious person. The individual was identified and spoken to, and the Allentown Police Department also responded.

Thursday, October 26
Investigative: Interview at HQ - 2:00 p.m.
In the Martin Luther Hall parking lot, there was a report of damage found to a vehicle. The owner was spoken to, and it was found that the damage was from a previous accident.

Check the Welfare - 5:09 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report to locate a student. Contact was made with the student, and Student Health Services and the Dean of Students were notified.

Alcohol Violation - 11:13 p.m.
In Benfer Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and the alcohol was disposed of by a Campus Safety Officer.

Alcohol Violation - 11:21 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and the alcohol was disposed of by a Campus Safety Officer.

Friday, October 27
Alcohol Violation - 12:51 a.m.
At North 22nd Street, there was a report of an intoxicated individual. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 9:10 p.m.
At 414 Albright Street, there was a report of a fire alarm triggered by the steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset.

Alcohol Violation - 11:30 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and Allentown EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Saturday, October 28
Fire Alarm Sounding - 1:02 a.m.
At 2206 Chew Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding that was triggered by smoking. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and the system was silenced and reset.

Vandalism - 1:15 a.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, First Floor, there was a report of damage to a vending machine. There are no suspects at this time.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 4:00 p.m.
At the Multicultural Center, there was a report of a fire alarm triggered by a fog machine. The system was silenced and reset.

Injured Visitor - 8:45 p.m.
In the Trexler Library, there was a report of an injured visitor. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the individual refused further treatment or transport.

Sunday, October 29
Fire Alarm Sounding - 8:31 p.m.
At 2333 Liberty Street, there was a report of a fire alarm triggered by a blow dryer. The system was silenced and reset.

The Weekly staff wishes everyone a safe and happy weekend!

Where has Awa been?

After suffering a foot injury in Senegal, Awa has made her return to the dining hall following surgery.

By Brooke Greenberg
Contributing Writer

To the Muhlenberg community, she's more than just a radiant, smiling face at the swipes counter at the entrance to Wood Dining Commons.

Napkins all along the Napkin Board illuminate with phrases such as "Awa is back! Best day ever!" For her ability to memroize almost everyone's name, Awa Faye has become a piece of the incredible Muhlenberg experience.

Greeting the hundreds of people each day is what Awa knows best – she always puts on a huge smile regardless of the time of day. And so, at first glance, you would never know that Awa is on the brink of recovery from having major foot surgery.

Over the summer, Awa was visiting her sister in Senegal, her native country, where she injured her foot. Upon seeing a doctor in Senegal, she was assured that she would be okay. However, upon returning to the United States, Awa visited a new doctor who, after seeing her and doing some imaging, determined that she needed surgery.

"It took a long time to get help, but I'm here!" said Awa, glistening with a big smile on her face. Despite her return to work, Awa is continuing to do physical therapy twice a week as a part of her recovery.

"I missed it a lot here, that's why I came back," added Awa with excitement. "I missed the students. There are very nice kids here and I have a lot of friends – they are like my second family. Muhlenberg is family for me."

The dining hall staff and faculty are not the only people around campus who missed Awa. Students were absolutely delighted to see the friendly face return.

"I love her. The day she came back I was so happy, she put the biggest smile on my face and we had a whole conversation for like ten minutes and she remembered my name," said Lauren Padko '20. "She has this thing where she makes you feel special. She always brings 100% positivity."

"She is definitely my favorite worker here," said Jimmy Franton '20. "It made my day when I saw her when she came back. We talked for awhile and she is just simply great."

Next time you walk in the Wood Dining Commons, say hi to Awa; her smiling, friendly face will be sure to make your day.

The positive energy that she brings to Muhlenberg is one that the whole community appreciates and is grateful to see again.

Ian Adler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Last week, Awa returned to work after recovering from a foot injury.

FROM **INCIDENT**
PAGE 1

the campus community. Thus, many of the conversations on campus shifted to the emergency communications themselves.

The Clery Act, named after a Lehigh University freshman who was raped and murdered in 1986, was amended following the Virginia Tech mass shooting to require institutions to issue "timely warnings" in the event of an incident that threatens the safety of students or employees.

In compliance with the Clery Act, Muhlenberg utilizes the E2Campus emergency alert system, which allows College officials to send out the timely warning through text messages and emails.

A goal of communications in crisis situations is to avoid releasing information that may contradict later findings.

One of the advantages of E2Campus is that pre-prepared messages are crafted for a variety of incidents, such as a crime-in-progress or an active shooter, says Fidati.

These initial messages are always followed up by more detailed communications through email, like last Tuesday's incidents.

In conversations with students, a prevailing theme was that the lack of detailed information in the College's first message after the armed robbery was anxiety provoking.

Fidati can understand that perspective, especially in today's world where people expect details to be delivered immediately. Ultimately, the Clery Act, as well as the department's own responsibility to ensure the campus' safety, values the importance of a timely warning with concrete instructions over a detailed first message.

"Our job is to send out accurate information for people to take immediate action to keep themselves safe," said Fidati. "If we wait several minutes to give specific details, somebody may be unaware of the need to shelter in place and something bad may happen as a result."

Bill Keller, Executive Director of Communications agrees with the premise of sending out an action plan and supplying details afterwards. A goal of communications in crisis situations, he says, is to avoid releasing information that may contradict later findings.

"As we confirm the information itself and know that it will not put students or responding Campus Safety officers in a compromised situation, we become more confident in reporting it," Keller added.

IAN ADLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Last week, an armed robbery occurred in the vicinity of Benfer Hall. The campus was informed of the incident and placed under a 'shelter-in-place' order for approximately two hours.

In a campus-wide email sent on Oct. 26, Gulati identified the role of local media as an additional concern for reporting information while the incident was ongoing.

"Various publications have raised questions and shared assumptions about the motivation for this incident or contextual details surrounding it that have not been confirmed by the college or Allentown Police," said Gulati in the email. "I encourage all of us to refrain as much as possible from making broad generalizations that could be hurtful within our community."

Local news organizations rushed to report the Benfer incident while unconfirmed details circulated on social media.

"When news is breaking, there's almost always misinformation swirling about. Responsible news organizations have a policy to independently confirm news from at least two sources," said Dr. Jeff Pooley, Associate Professor of Media & Communication. "One unfortunate side effect of social media is that the old race to 'scoop' a competitor is no longer constrained by the production schedule."

Ultimately, the College will continue to revise its emergency management and response protocols and make recommendations for future adjustments. Fidati added that early conversations have indicated the need for stronger consistency in word choice and messaging, as well as additional educational opportunities regarding actions like sheltering in place.

SGA funds development of new position

Ann Marie Stevens addresses her shift from the Counseling Center to Prevention Education

BY MELISSA REPH
NEWS EDITOR

A story that The Weekly began covering last year has begun to come to a close. The hiring of a Director of Prevention Education, to be funded in the beginning by the Student Government Association (SGA), has been completed and Ann Marie Stevens has been settling into this new role.

"We've only been here a couple of months now so everything is brand new," Stevens said of the new Office of Prevention Education. "There's not a day-to-day life, it's different depending on what happens."

"My day-to-day can go anywhere from working with students to working with different departments and making sure their programming aligns with our mission and our goal," Stevens said.

Stevens spends a lot of her time in meetings working to get the Prevention Education program more traction here on campus, in addition to creating programming that is both necessary and sought after by students. She added as an example of the programming that on the night of Monday Oct. 30, she hosted a screening of the movie "Goat" that dealt with hazing on a college campus.

Prior to receiving the Director of Prevention Education position, Stevens worked in Muhlenberg's Counseling Center. She said that there are two main differences between being a counselor and the Prevention Education director. The first is that, in her new role, the things students speak to her about are not confidential.

Of all individuals considered, this made Ann Marie Stevens a natural choice for this position.

"Here, even though I'm seeing some of the same concerns and same issues, they're now coming to me about programing around different situations," Stevens explained of the second difference.

Like she did previously, Stevens is working directly with students, which is something she loves getting to do.

Originally, there was a nationwide search for what ultimately became Stevens' position. Dean of Students Allison Gulati addressed this decision to hire from within the Muhlenberg community in an email interview.

"Over the course of this search, we had an internal applicant come forward who not only met all of the position criteria, but brings significant experience, knowledge and new ideas to this work," Gulati explained. "She also brings the advantage of having a mental health background and significant context for our Muhlenberg community and the direct issues our specific students are facing. Of all individuals considered, this made Ann Marie Stevens a natural choice for this position."

Mahlet Mesfin, one of two interns with the Peer Health Advocates at Muhlenberg, mentioned that she found it a bit strange that the College went through the search process only to hire from within.

"I think this just shows that Muhlenberg should be looking within our campus to fill positions before spending money searching elsewhere," Mesfin said of the ultimate decision to hire Stevens.

What makes Stevens' position especially unique is the fact that it's being funded by the SGA. "SGA has fully funded the first year of the position costs," Gulati said. "Over four years, in incremental measures, SGA will cover less of the position and the college will cover more until the college fully funds the position and SGA no longer contributes."

Gulati believes that gender violence and drug and alcohol abuse are issues that impact every student in some way. SGA using their budget to help create a Prevention Education program is an excellent use of some of their money, especially because it will help to support all students' health and well being, she added.

"I think the position being funded by SGA shows an interest by the student body to support Prevention Education which is great," Mesfin added.

"The office is here at the request of students and their needs," Stevens said. Adding that SGA funding her position shows that Prevention Education is something students and the Muhlenberg community want.

FROM **DIVESTMENT**
PAGE 1

al argument behind divestment actually invoked by President John Williams himself during the meeting.

"The investment committee and our administration as a whole, clearly, is already aware of the moral implications of privately profiting from an industry that's endangering the lives of millions of people," said Domeyer.

"We wanted to give them an argument that they would be able to understand and really get on board with," added Domeyer. "If we wait until we see a substantial loss in the fossil fuel industry, if we wait until they all kind of have the same trend as the coal industry, then it's too late. We haven't gotten ahead of it and we're going to see substantial losses."

Despite the financial aspect of it all, the continuous prospecting of oil and gas companies threatens the environment to a potentially catastrophic degree. Domeyer explained that if more than 565 gigatons of carbon dioxide are released, we will have surpassed the threshold of 2°C of global warming, bringing about more natural disasters and extreme weather patterns.

"The fossil fuel industry, in proven reserves, has almost 3,000 gigatons of carbon dioxide and they're still prospecting," said Domeyer. "Shell and Exxon fully expect that we're going to get to 6°C of warming because they don't expect that their company is actually going to get regulated. That's billions and billions of lives lost. That's trillions of dollars lost."

Domeyer also added that a study by the University of Minnesota showed Eastern Pennsylvania as having the "widest disparity between low-income minority groups exposed to nitrous oxide and high-income white groups." Like carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide is one of the most common waste products of the fossil fuel industry. Despite the wide disparity, ranked second only to New York City, no Pa. college has divested.

"We all recognize the serious nature of climate change and the impact that the burning of fossil fuels has on our environment. However, we do need to take into consideration the fact that the global economy would not function without these energy sources that we depend on," said Douglas Peebles, Trustee and Chair of the Investment Committee, in an email interview. "It is our belief that Muhlenberg can be good citizens of the Earth without divesting completely from fossil fuels."

Divestment only adds to the recent trends of growth for scientists becoming activists. Climate change activism has been around since the 1960s, but with the election of President Trump and his stance on climate change and climate research a more profound sense of activism has resurfaced.

In the United States, divestment from fossil fuels has been an official campaign spanning less than five years, with already more than five trillion dollars divested according to the gofossilfree.org, the main website for the movement. What began as a largely student-run effort is now largely supported by faith-based organizations, philanthropic foundations and even government entities.

According to Domeyer, although the movement began as a moral obligation, it was quickly matched by the financial aspect of it all.

"They already know the moral argument," said Domeyer. "We've outlined a very compelling financial argument for them. I don't know why they're not willing to make commitments."

"Understandably, the trustees act with extreme care overseeing how the College's endowment is invested," said Williams in an email interview. "Changes to our endowment investment policy rank among the most important decisions our trustees make. Careful consideration of such decisions often takes time."

That endowment, running at $270 million, "is absolutely essential as a financial underpinning of the College," and is relatively low compared to similar colleges, according to Williams.

One inhibiting factor for the investors to divest is the prospective nature of big oil and gas companies. The argument is that while they're still prospecting, there's still room for growth within the market, according to Domeyer.

"They asked a lot of questions about the future economic viability of coal, oil and fossil fuels and we were saying that because of increased regulation and stigmatization, there's going to be more restraints on the market," said Madeleine Weko '18, another lead organizer of Muhlenberg's divestment collective.

"The demand for energy, and oil in particular, across the globe has actually increased over this time period, which calls into question whether or not this is an industry in decline," said Peebles. "The investment philosophy that the Muhlenberg College endowment follows is a value-based style which entails a greater emphasis on buying investments that have underperformed and selling ones that have out-performed."

"I think mainly what we need to do is continue to bring them proof that it is financially responsible to get away from these resources before they become stranded assets," Weko added.

"While the recent trends do, in fact, show that many companies in the traditional energy space have underperformed the market that does not necessarily mean they will continue to underperform," said Peebles. "The price of oil has declined quite sharply starting in 2014, but that has more to do with additional supply sources coming to the market with the advance of technologies that enable extraction of previously non-commercial fuel."

For now, members of EnAct plan on collecting even more evidence in anticipation of their next meeting with the Board of Trustees and the Investment Committee.

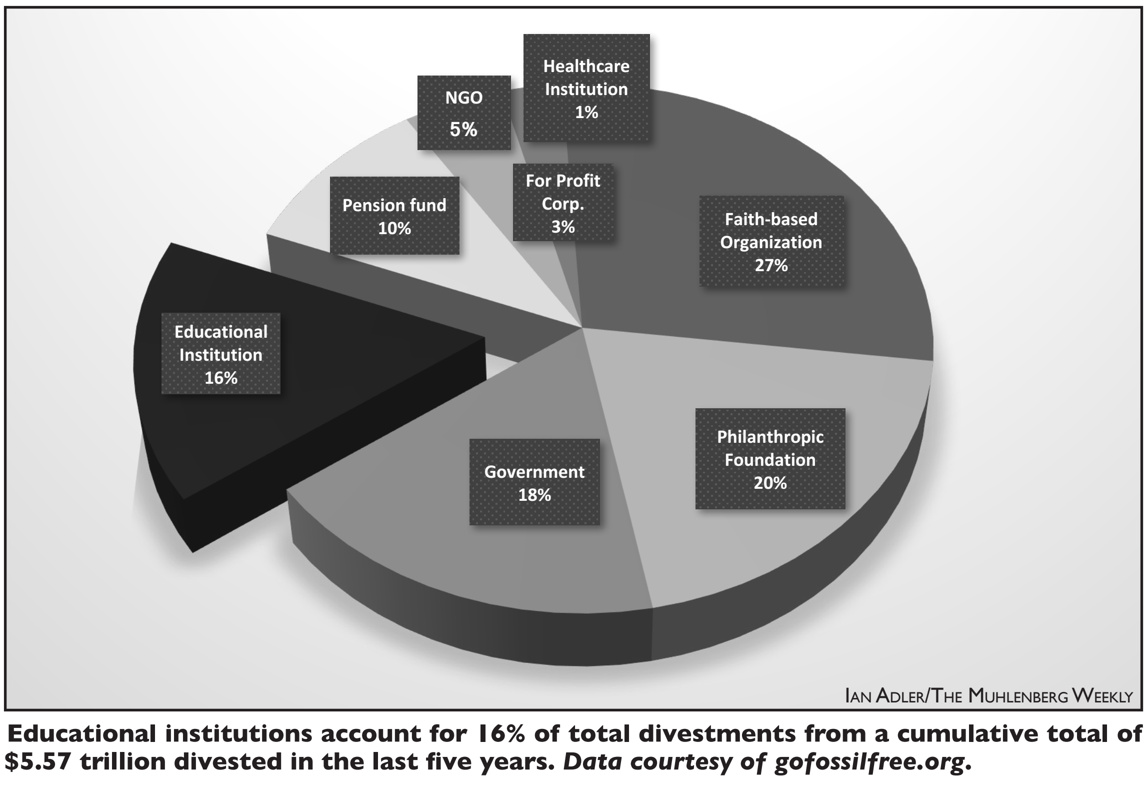
"Rather than rest on just their opinions or even on one-sided arguments, they came to the committee with well-researched points, backed up by written source material that they provided for the committee's review," added Williams. "They really did their homework and did an outstanding job of presenting their case powerfully and engagingly."

Future action with the divestment group will focus on "building their base" and getting students talking and engaging in the conversation. Domeyer plans to invite speakers to campus, reach out to alumni and continue meeting with the investment committee.

"We want to emphasize that we're here to work with the investment committee because we want to be a part of this process," said Domeyer. "We have to be more vocal and keep applying that pressure. We have to make sure that they know that this isn't a fad and we're not going away."

In what she calls "decade zero" of climate change, the immediate five-year window marks the point in which action can have a "profound impact and preemptively protect our endowment."

Recently, green initiatives to become more energy- and water-efficient and reduce food waste, as well as efforts to address and eliminate campus racism have marked steps in the right direction for enhancing our social and environmental governance. However, continuing to fund companies that actively contribute to climate change and systematic environmental racism undermines any claims that adhere to being "good citizens of the Earth," as stated in the college's own Fundamental Institutional Values.



IAN ADLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Educational institutions account for 16% of total divestments from a cumulative total of $5.57 trillion divested in the last five years. ***Data courtesy of gofossilfree.org.***

FROM **AWARENESS**
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The campaign It's On Us "has historically been organized by SRJ in conjunction with the Title IX office." Last year SRJ were not able to host a Week of Action. "However," says SRJ President, Taylor Chase '19, "we are trying to reestablish our club's investment in the campaign and creating a culture on college campuses where sexual assault is not tolerated."

Chase says her main goal of the event "is to make sure we have a successful week and build visibility for this movement."

"There is no reproductive justice without a culture of consent."

"Sexual autonomy is an essential part of reproductive justice," said Chase, "and we believe that everyone has the right to have (or abstain from) happy, healthy and consensual sexual encounters. There is no reproductive justice without a culture of consent."

Chase does acknowledge her "idealistic goal as being able to create a culture on campus that doesn't tolerate sexual assault." She is aware that one Week of Action will "not completely dismantle the institutional and societal structures that have created the current culture where sexual violence is permissible." Most importantly, Chase hopes that the campus learns how many students there are that do not tolerate sexual assault and that "survivors feel validated in their journey and that they feel heard and supported."

There is still much more to come from It's On Us action week. On Thursday SRJ will be partnering with Fight4HER in the Lehigh Valley to sponsor a discussion on the gag rule. The event is part of a larger national tour and will feature Women's Rights advocates Lisa Shannon, Amos Simpano and Melvine Ouyo. "Together," describes Chase, "the advocates show what the world that doesn't support women's reproductive health looks like." On Friday there will be and Escalation Workshop developed by the One Love Foundation, which works to stimulate conversation and activism around relationship violence.

SRJ also does many other things on campus throughout the academic year. Previously their events have had condom gram drives and a Planned Parenthood event that included a book signing event. SRJ has also gotten Plan B in the health center at a discounted rate ($25 versus the $50 you'd pay at the drugstore).

Arts & Culture

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.”
— Maya Angelou

Exploring world ‘flutelore’

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

Oct. 29, 2017, a rainy Sunday evening around 7 p.m., Muhlenberg’s Flute Ensemble presented a series of pieces within the walls of Egner Chapel. They ranged from Baroque styles and interpretations to Gaelic and contemporary arrangements; the concert itself was a spectacle of culture and time. Sponsored and lead by director Elaine Martin, the concert was used as a means to both present the audience with Muhlenberg’s talented flute ensemble as well as showing how the instrument can incorporate and re-interpret their ensemble works. What I mean by this is that set genres of music were re-defined that Sunday evening — re-defined to a point of complete renewal. For instance, they not only incorporated pieces of the baroque era (a time often associated with the flute as well as Christian idiocentric works), but pieces from other periods in time, as well as various other geographical locations. Works such as, “A Gaelic Offering,” a Jazz piece “A Child is Born” and a more contemporary work titled “Walk Like This” were all given a share of the spotlight. All the students who performed did a marvelous job, clearly demonstrating their precision and talents.

The flute is an instrument that is so integrated in various cultures and folklore, that it is often a part of the very metonymy that is the country it’s representing.

The particular concept of combining geographical areas interested me, as I myself never thought of the flute quite as “transnational” as I do now. I generally defined it as a “western” instrument. It’s become apparent now how truly wrong that assumption was. The flute is an instrument that is so integrated in various cultures and folklore, that it is often a part of the very metonymy that is the country it’s representing. For instance, the author of “World Flutelore: Folktales, Myths, and Other Stories of Magical Flute Power,” Dale Olsen, describes the importance of the flute as that of a direct “function... in a world context.” Olsen further argues that “a significant understanding of the magic and power of the world flutes is possible through legends — that is, flutelore.” The recital seemed to latch onto this concept of “world flutes” (whether intentional or not) and further set a value on its power of the narrative. The flute was not only a means of entertainment, but also a means of storytelling. A well-known example of this is from the tragic German legend — the Pied Piper.

This mysterious figure, who is said to have caused the disappearance of hundreds of children, is pictured with either a recorder-like instrument (hence “Pied Piper”) a golden flute. In one film interpretation of the legend, the Piper played a certain tune every time — “In the Hall Of the Mountain King” by Edvard Greig. Whenever the flutist played in a higher register, only the children would be able to hear; when the he played in a lower register, only the adults. It was an interesting choice of symbolism in which the higher octaves (or soprano part) represents a sort of purity and innocence, while everything lower referred to darker elements to the human psyche.

It is with this in mind that I would like to explore the piece “For unto us a child is Born” from Handel’s *Messiah*. Originally a small vocal ensemble piece that was a part of a much larger work called an oratorio, the work was re-arranged for Muhlenberg’s Flute Ensemble. While the transition from vocal to instrumental removes the lyrics from the performance, this particular arrangement allows for further ornamentation as well as a higher range within the melodies. There is a particular moment where a single flute begins only for a second to follow a similar melodic line (except a beat behind). This creates what seems to be a cannon structure — a round between the two flutists.

A third flutist soon joins the other two — except with a contrasting melody that soon derails the pattern developed by the original two. Soon, all five flutists are contributing various similar and differing motives to the original melody line — emphasizing a growth in sound and complexity. The piece in general is celebratory — hence the title “Unto us a child is born.” However, while the oratorio in it’s original form has the support of vocals of an entire orchestra, this particular arrangement had only the five flutes — meaning it was much thicker with layers and layers of varying musical motives.

I was truly grateful to have witnessed this performance, and I look forward to seeing where the ensemble may go from here in the coming semesters.

Muhlenberg flutists Zach Aldave ‘20 (top), Leah Santacroce ‘19 (left) and Anna Birna Turner ‘18 (bottom) perform in Egner Chapel.

Campus discussion of diversity projects

By Eitana Friedman-Nathan
Contributing Wtiter

On Friday afternoon, four faculty members took their seats in the GQ Annex, awaiting the commencement of the third "Digging Deeper" meeting of the semester. Most students will, hopefully, remember filing into the black box theater during First-Year orientation to view "Digging Deeper's" predecessor, The "Sedehi Diversity Project," or SDP. SDP was created by Desirée Sedehi ('08) with the goal of providing an outlet for students to express thoughts and concerns about issues of diversity and social justice on campus. The project allows for earnest investigation of issues of race, gender, religion and more on campus, without mediation at the hands of the administration. The "Digging Deeper" project was conceptualized as a means of continuing such crucial conversations beyond the play's yearly performance.

"Digging Deeper" meets three times, typically during the fall semester, and strives to create an environment where issues of social justice and equity may be discussed. Unfortunately, this past week's meeting had no students in attendance; however, the project's faculty was full of insightful commentary about the project and the larger diversity climate on campus. Robin Riley-Casey, director of the Office of Multicultural Life, explained how vital it is to engage first-year students in this dialogue: "I don't think we will ever not attempt to engage the population. If we want to transform Muhlenberg culture to one that is complicated and engages with these social issues, we need to start early."

SDP aims to begin to engage the population in dialogue, but does not encourage students to allow the conversation to halt after the designated conversations have ended. "Digging Deeper" then provides that intermediate space for students to come forth and address the issues on both individual and communal planes, without the added pressure the social sphere may contain. One such opportunity that "Digging Deeper" provides is their annual retreat, which engages students in dialogue not only about the issues at hand, but a "meta" level of discussing how to create a dialogue on campus. This year the retreat will take place at a retreat center, and will culminate on campus.

Catalyst training, created by the LeaderShape Institute, is a one-day leadership training program, which will be open to the campus community. It focuses on individual understanding of goals and small-group dialogue. Riley-Casey explains that this program offers "synergy with the work ['Digging Deeper'] is doing." Focus on and development of group dynamics and leadership skills will allow for these conversations to last longer — impacting participants in a lasting and meaningful way. The facilitators of the retreat hope that these skills will allow students to leverage their leadership capacity to work towards collective change.

When asked about the recent poster incidents on campus, which covered the college in a cloud of tension, these faculty members explained the importance of dialogue in assuaging fears and ensuring safety for all members of the campus community.

"Awareness building matters," stated Mark Smiley, assistant director of the Office of Multicultural Life. "But what is the meaning making that can happen around that?" In other words, how can interpersonal discussion make an impact on the greater climate of the Muhlenberg student body? The content of these discussions can only reverberate through the population if students investigate the intersection of ideas, which derive from the different experiences represented by the student body, explained Office of Community Engagement's Eveily Freeman. The Office of Community Engagement and Office of Multicultural Life have, over the years, investigated data collections of the student body, and understand the diversity statistics on this campus.

How can interpersonal discussion make an impact on the greater climate of the Muhlenberg student body?

When asked about how these numbers are reflected in the general manifestation of diversity, it was stated that the prominent stumbling block is creating a place where like-minded yet diverse people can engage face-to-face. Suggestions have been made about prompting these conversations within First Year Seminars, where populations are diverse and students are within close proximity to the SDP experience.

Although diversity statistics on campus have fluctuated over the years, with the Latino population growing, the Black population remaining relatively static and the Asian-American population's inconsistency, it becomes easy for Muhlenberg to appear a consistently predominantly White campus. However, such perceptions will only be propagated if campus continues to fall short in terms of opportunities to address, not just acknowledge, such issues. Therefore, "Digging Deeper" holds a crucial place in the dynamic of the college.

Institutional changes have been suggested as well; the college is currently in search of a new Associate Provost of Diversity. These faculty members hope that with an incoming provost will come more data collection, and consequent opportunities to strategize about ways to address the results of such studies. The task of fighting the stigmas that accompany a campus with a student body that is 73.8% white is unquestionably difficult. However, such stigmas only gain more power when students do not often address the complications at hand.

The opportunity to engage in the crucial conversations "Digging Deeper" encourages provides students the opportunity to think about each individual's responsibility to his or her peers and the greater Muhlenberg project. As Smiley so eloquently explained, this project has the potential to allow students to question the status-quo and address their crucial lived experiences. Students will be able to gain autonomy of intellect, and explore ideas outside of the "mainstream European notions of identity and belonging." Here, students can finally investigate how to unapologetically make their college experience their own.

Vocalists, violinists, pianists, oh my!

Looking into the programs and students that make a Muhlenberg student recital

By Arielle Moss
Contributing Writer

On the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 27, families, students and music lovers gathered in the Egner Memorial Chapel to enjoy musical performances by a variety of Muhlenberg music students. The music beautifully filled the chapel with its fantastic acoustics.

Each semester, the music department typically presents four or five of these student recitals. Performers have weekly one-on-one lessons with their studio instructor and then perform in a recital.

"The concert provides an opportunity for students to 'try out' the music that they are studying, i.e., to perform live before their colleagues, their instructors and the campus community. We record all of these concerts; students and teachers can access, study and copy these recordings as they perfect their artistry," said music department chair Dr. Paul Murphy. "The recitals provide an excellent, real-time experience for our performers. The more opportunity they have for this, the more skilled they become. For those listening, the recitals offer a broad array of repertoire of vocal instrumental music, and are a wonderful way to end the week!"

The performers were students of faculty members Paul Windt, Christopher Jackson, Brian Chu, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen, Vincent Trovato, Dan Boring, Fiona Jackson, Lauren Madigan and Trisha Budlong. Some of the performances were accompanied by Vincent Trovato.

This semester's Third Student Recital included both classical music, Italian music and even musical theater pieces. The recital began with violist Margaret Jackson '21, who played "Adagio" composed by Johann Sebastian Bach. Following her performance, tenor Owen Yingling '21 sang the Italian song "Vaga luna, che inargenti" by Vincenzo Bellini.

"I felt pretty good about my performance, but more than anything I was so thrilled to see my talented classmates perform," said Yingling.

Yingling has been playing music since he was in sixth grade and plans to major in theater, but might major in music as well. Regardless of his future career, he will definitely continue to listen to and attend music events, keeping music a part of his life. Yingling inherited his interest in music from his family.

Kennedy Maxwell '21 sang "Far From the Home I Love" from the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*.

"There are always places in which I can improve, but overall, I thought my performance went well. Vinny plays a big part in that though. He is always amazing to work with," said Maxwell.

Maxwell started singing in her third grade choir, but started to seriously study music in eighth grade. She is a theater major and is a double minor in music and dance. Music integrates itself into many parts of her life, such as listening to music while studying and singing in the shower.

"Most people drink coffee, but music is my energizer. The right song can flip my mood around and give me confidence. That said, music is also a comforter on the 'not so good days.' Music truly helps me lose and find myself at the same time," said Maxwell.

Mezzo-soprano Sophie MacKay '20 sang "No One Else" from the musical *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1821*, and was accompanied by Ashely Hiester '20.

MacKay has been singing longer than she can remember, but started taking voice lessons in seventh grade. She is a member of Muhlenberg's all-female a cappella group, The Girls Next Door.

"I know that music will always play an important role in my life," said MacKay. "I hope to continue performing professionally in musicals, whether that is somewhere in New York or back in Portland where I grew up, I don't really care, as long as I am performing and singing!"

Lella Michelson '19 is a mezzo-soprano who sang "Meadowlark" from the musical *The Baker's Wife*. She is a dancer and dance teacher, so she is always listening to music.

"I grew up listening to musicals and I have always loved to sing and that continued into my world today," said Michelson.

Other performers included Ryan Carey '21, Henri Reiss-NaVarre '19 and Rebecca Grabarchuk '21.

If you missed this student recital, you have the opportunity to attend the 4th Student Recital on Friday, Nov. 17 at 2:00 in the afternoon!

International Week:

Seventeen cultures, one team

BY ETHAN FORRER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As a liberal arts institution that prides itself on holding specifically red doors open for just about anyone and everyone, we here at Muhlenberg certainly understand and preach support for diversity in both academia and life. Culture is one of the most unique and beautiful forms of expression of a person's way of life that we don't really get to see very often in passing. With so many foreign cultures, both traditional and modern, hidden in plain sight all around us, it becomes almost a shame that most students don't know of, or haven't had a chance to experience, what life outside of our little bubble is like. It was with these principles in mind that the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures worked together with the International Student Association (ISA), the Multicultural Center and the Office of International Student Support to hold their second annual International Week.

International Week this year started the festivities on Thursday, Oct. 19 with a performance by Dr. Javier Avila titled "The Trouble With My Name" and continued on for a week with various events featuring collaborations with Student Activities, the Multicultural Center, the department of Theatre and Dance and the Chaplain's Office. For the final event at the end of the week, on Oct. 26, Dr. Eileen McEwan, chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures and Associate Professor of French, and Jouman Barakat '20, president of the ISA, set up the International Week Performance Night and Dinner as one big blowout night of cultural performances celebrating our differences.

Dr. McEwan and Barakat worked with the local Sodexo branch and Seegers Union's dining staff to prepare a variety of foreign dishes for people to enjoy while watching the multicultural show. The show itself, MC'd by our own Barakat, started with the first half of the acts performed by domestic students in the foreign language that they are studying. The lineup involved all types of songs in the languages taught here, as well as a fair bit of dancing. There were two incredible Italian Arie, a classic Russian song from an old fairytale, two songs in Hebrew, a jazzy French song, an interpretive dance and a Chinese love song; there was also an English song translated into Spanish, a slightly americanized popular Spanish song and even a whole Spanish class singing (and dancing a little) along to a Spanish pop song. The big event from the first half was when everyone attempted to circle around in a Dabke dance line after learning the basic steps.

The second half had an even greater range of acts with the main focus being on foreign students sharing parts of their culture. Kate Ekanem '21 performed an energetic and powerful contemporary Nigerian art dance in what I think might be an Yoruba buba dress blouse, unfortunately I know very little about Nigerian culture the type of dress is just my speculation. Next, Tongyao Su '19 played a song on a Guzheng, also know as a Chinese zither. YuFei Li '20 did a presentation on the types of teas, how the preparation and choices of tea vary from China and American and problems with Lipton cornering the market here with expensive, very low quality tea. The second to last performance wrapped up the musical section of the night with our very own Top Naach Bollywood dance club bringing things home doing what Bollywood does best: getting everyone pumped up with their energetic, synchronized, discrete body movements, almost narrative hand and arm gestures and unexplainably addictive head bopping to the beat.

> **With so many foreign cultures ... hidden in plain sight all around us, it becomes almost a shame that most students don't know of, or haven't had a chance to experience, what life outside of our little bubble is like.**

The final act of the night was a showing of the 17 minute long, professional grade documentary "Off the Menu" by David Ossa '19 and Niko Romero '19. "Off the Menu" offers a brief but impactful look into the personal and work lives of three of our beloved dining staff: Mary Martinez, May Zoda and Awa Faye. In the documentary, the three women tell the story of their past, how they got to Muhlenberg and what their life is like now in their native language. Martinez explains her life growing up in Villalba, Puerto Rico, seeking a degree in nursing to help others, but then she left her home with her three children and came to the U.S. to escape from her abusive husband, which is how she came to work at Muhlenberg. Unable to speak English at the time, Martinez recalls the difficulties she had trying to work in this strange new place, but with the support of the management and the students, she's been able to progress and learn to love her job here. Her daughter is even planning to continue Martinez's dream studying nursing to be there for others.

Zoda talks about how she came here with the rest of her loving family from Syria in 1989 for better income job higher education at a University. Unfortunately, she couldn't find time to take care of her family, work and study and had to instead put plans of officially studying English on the back-burner. Zoda has been working here for sixteen years, enjoying the respectfulness of the students, and she is still able to live out her Syrian lifestyle with her family and new grandchildren.

Faye speaks about moving here from Senegal with her family when her husband became the technical director of a farm in America. Faye has been working at Muhlenberg for almost ten years and takes great pride in the African custom of always being the first to greet someone before they greet you by saying "hi" to everyone who comes into the dining hall while she's there swiping them in. A personal note to Faye: it might be a little late, but I would like to welcome you back from Senegal; as a freshman, I haven't had the chance to get to know you just yet, but I've heard so many wonderful things about you. I'm sure I'm not alone in expressing my joy to have you back with us safe and sound.

As for the rest of the documentary, I do not believe I can do the documentary justice by trying to describe the whole experience of watching it, particularly after a full night of energy and celebration, so I will instead recommend that everyone takes just take 20 minutes between classes to watch the documentary for yourself in order to have something to think about next time you grab your next meal.

I went into the International Week Performance Night and dinner completely ignorant to what the the show was going to be about, all the different foreign cultures that would be represented and even of all the ways what we would be able to show off those cultures. Spreading the diversity of our campus with performances like this takes perfect advantage of the music, theatre and dance prowess that we are so known for. Honestly, I think this was the most fun I've had without knowing what was going on at all, so all I could do is just enjoy the ride of songs, dances, and expressions in foreign languages. I can't wait to see what they have in store for us next year in 2018's International Week.

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Hockey forced to hang up skates

Poor coaching, inadequate numbers and lack of college support leads to ice hockey demise

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

Moments after Parkland Middle School's ice hockey team players and hockey moms shuffled out of The Rink at Lehigh Valley, 10 young men take the newly resurfaced ice for their usual 7:45 p.m. Friday night game. Warming up to a mix that elevates a pulse and drowns out the objections of the referees, there's a stunning difference between Muhlenberg's ice hockey team and the visiting team. Regardless of what school they play, the opposing team will always have at least double the names on their roster.

A polar opposite from the crowd that lined the balcony three-deep just minutes before for a team half their age, there's rarely a crowd for the Mules, save for a few loyal parents and classmates, the rink staff, their adopted little brother Duncan and, occasionally, the pep band. While their classmates debate which party to attend, Muhlenberg's players suited up in full gear, ready to face a team that has them out-staffed, out-coached and out-numbered. Rarely, however, will they be out-played.

From the moment the first puck drops at center ice, most of Muhlenberg's players will fight for all 60 minutes of regulation. Because the 10 players that make up this team are not only fighting for a win, but to keep their program alive.

Muhlenberg ice hockey boasts a long and decorated history, but few on campus would actually know it. The ice hockey program began in 1969 when two eager freshmen, Bill Bilinkas '73 and Lyle Allan '73, formed a team. In its first four years of existence, Muhlenberg hockey went undefeated against both men's league and college teams.

"Hockey was a big part of my life," said Allan. "The folks that played when I was there were committed to the game and having a good time. We played ridiculously late hours, paid our own way. The school pretty much ignored us but I met a lot of great people."

Muhlenberg ice hockey continued to rewrite record books. The Mules played five games in two days to become the first ever Centennial Cup Champions. In the 2006-07 season, Muhlenberg won the first ever Great Northeast Collegiate Hockey Conference championship. At the end of the 2013-14 season, the last year the Mules were a perennial powerhouse, they headed to their eighth consecutive playoff appearance, boasting a roster with four players in the top ten points in the league.

And then, without warning, it all fell apart.

Ken Latteman, former head coach, quit unexpectedly, informing the team less than a month before school began. Howard Unrue, who previously served as an assistant coach under Latteman, took over as head coach. But the difference in coaching staff wasn't the only aspect that changed about how the team operated.

"Ken was a nut job but in the best way possible," said Billy Rafferty '18, alternate captain of the ice hockey team. "He was so active that he made Muhlenberg hockey what I wanted to be a part of. Howard, polar opposite. Didn't do shit. How many times did he come into the locker room and tell us it's our job to recruit players?"

Jake Picker '18 appreciated that the coaching staff had a hands off approach, because it allowed players a chance to run the show. However, the lack of commitment, poor relationship with players and absence of pride in the program had a tremendous impact on the fate of the team.

According to Alex Rosen '18, whose dedication to the team saw him play every position possible, the hockey program he showed up to was not the one he was presented with, not just because the coach was not the same. After years of being dealt the worst hands, there's actually more issues than just coaching that led to the team's eventual demise.

Here's a peek into the not-so-glamourous world of Division II club ice hockey.

The players store their gear in a run-down garage with a door that doesn't lock on the edge of campus. At least three times a week, they'd transfer the equipment to the five or six cars it takes to transport both players and pads to their home rink, twenty minutes away from Muhlenberg. The team is only able to squeeze in two one-hour practices a week, on Mondays and Wednesday from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m., in between class and high school games.

Time isn't the only thing working against the ice hockey team; finances plays a huge role in the existence of the sport at Muhlenberg. There's an expectation to pay out of pocket even though hockey is one of, if not, the most expensive sports to play. Proper equipment alone can set a player back thousands of dollars, and that's before fees and other costs are added on. With tuition upwards of $50,000 and the school only providing the club $4,000 - which only covers the fees to be a part of the American Collegiate Hockey Association - each player must fork over an additional $2,050 every year just to scrape together a legitimate program. With costs that high, it's infeasible to keep a club team alive without some support.

Both Photos: Alyssa Hertel/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Top Right: Alex Rosen '18 skates at Ramapo in Fall '16
Above: The team photo from the 2016-17 season

"It's not fair to ask 20-to-21-year old kids to go up to parents, who are spending tens of thousands of dollars to send their kids to school, to cover that," said Sam Amon '19.

While the players understand that ice hockey will never be a priority, their frustration centers around the lack of support in general from the athletic department.

"The fact that the athletic director, when me and Jake met with him, tells us he didn't really know a lot of the stuff that was going on," said Amon, the emotion visible on his face. "I kind of blame him. He said he didn't really know much about Howard but who hires a guy you don't know much about, or at least get to know as he's been there for years. He says we've got X amount of guys right now. But he wouldn't hire a coach until we had numbers. Well, how are we supposed to get numbers if we don't have a coach or an athletic department or school that would help? Anything would've been better than nothing."

Rafferty felt the same way, "It was brutal, the most simple things they could've done they didn't do. It seemed as if it was blatant."

Goff defended his position on the issue and his department. According to Goff, club sports are intended to be student-centered, student-funded and student-run. However, with a collision sport like ice hockey, the college must also implement additional player health and safety requirements to reduce the risk of injury for students.

"Another requirement for ice hockey is that we have enough players to safely participate in competition," said Goff. "Our club ice hockey participation numbers have been critically low on several occasions over the past 15 years, making it very difficult to sustain. Although I can completely understand why our students feel that way [being punished for another's actions], the team being on hiatus this year is more about inadequate participation numbers than it is about coaching."

The tension between the club ice team and the school goes deeper than just athletics.

Amon, Rafferty and Rosen all agreed they would've chosen a different college if ice hockey hadn't been an option here. Rafferty and Amon had offers to play elsewhere.

"I would drive to LIU tonight to play hockey with six of us if it meant I got to play the game," said Amon. "I love playing hockey."

For them, this is the first time not playing hockey in over a decade, not something taken lightly when it's what gave them their friends or a reason to call their parents or a sense of purpose and meaning. That's gone now, at least from their view as a hockey player.

A common mentality in the sport of hockey is to play for the name on the front not the name on the back. Muhlenberg's ice hockey team never felt that way, even from the beginning.

"There was pride in having done something for myself and like minded souls that is not in the Muhlenberg catalog," said Allan. "Perhaps that is why a club sport is important, it is not part of the school. The only thing that Muhlenberg had to do with it was letting us use their name — the rest was our own."

Rafferty said essentially the same, "We got to a point where you looked at the jersey and you looked around, we weren't a part of the school. We are not a product of the school whatsoever."

"Obviously club sports aren't anywhere on their priority list," said Rosen. "But to show some kind of interest in keeping this alive and building something from it would be nice. We never got that. I think that says a lot about what the school cares about and that's unfortunate."

The ice hockey players graduating this coming spring — Picker, Rafferty, Rosen and two others, Liam Bonner and captain Tyler Tavormina — will have no senior day. They, and all their remaining teammates, will not have the opportunity to upset opponents or set benchmarks in their college careers. There will be no bus breakdowns at midnight in Bucknell or an absurd 98 saves by a Muhlenberg goaltender.

But they will all go on to graduate, skin a little tougher than when they arrived. They'll form careers and have children who will one day play the sport that is their world. And, in the words of Lyle Allan, they'll think back to their days on the ice and always smile.

FROM **SENIORS**
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had a similar opinion on the clutch win. "I am honestly so grateful that we ended our season on a win especially coming from a series of back to back overtime games with no outcome. We finally were able to finish strong and put the ball in the back of the net."

Overall, Chiodo and DeNigris noticed a simple principle that the program had in their senior campaigns—a positive attitude. "I most proud of my team as a unit. We had good attitudes on and off the field," explained Chiodo. What Chiodo will miss most has to do with that positive, fun atmosphere she spoke about, especially involving DeNigris. "I am definitely going to miss joking around with Carly on and off of the field. She also always pushed me and guided me with skills and positioning especially playing as a forward which is a foreign position for me."

The physical grind of playing four seasons of any collegiate sport is something to be proud of. "Personally, I am the most surprised and proud of the fact that my body was able to make it through four years, and many overtimes, of intense soccer games," said DeNigris.

For both teams, being part of athletics at Muhlenberg is a lot more than trying to win games. The women of the field hockey and women's soccer team couldn't have stressed that more. "We have always called ourselves a family," said Holdman. "This team is how I made some of my lifelong friends and I will never forget the countless hours on and off the field that brought us together," she added. DeNigris had similar words to say about the connections she made while suiting up for 'Berg. "Since it was such a small group of us and we all lived in the same dorm, we were able to bond very quickly. Living in the same room as Molly for two and half years before I went abroad allowed us to learn way more about each other than the typical friendship."

No matter the sport, student athletes across Muhlenberg's campus are sure to experience that knotted stomach feeling, a sense of nervousness. But this time, not because of the nationally ranked opponent they have to face, or because of the all-conference player they have to guard, or because it is a championship game. But instead, because they will never get to experience that type of nervous again.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

Carly DeNigris '18 moves the ball upfield against McDaniel.

FROM **FOOTBALL**
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Carter has noticed significant growth in Wilczynsksi's play and also feels that his understanding of the position has increased tremendously. "Every week you can see Wiz getting more comfortable. Our offense isn't the easiest to grasp, especially after not having played offense for at least three years. He is gaining a better understanding and that is allowing him to play the game faster and without having to think as much. As a result, he is making more plays."

With Wilczynski's superb athleticism and football knowledge, the coaching staff has not had to work on making major adjustments during Wilczynski's transition to offense. "We are really working on the small adjustments that receivers make each play to help them be successful. How to use his hands to keep defenders off of him, how to run the same route in a slightly different manner, adjusting how close or far to the next receiver in order to help him execute his assignments better," said Carter. "He's essentially getting the condensed version of everything. Most guys have years to learn and figure it all out. Wiz has done a great job of cramming it all into a couple of months," Coach Carter added.

Wilczynski admits that the toughest part of his transition from defense to offense was changing his mindset as a football player, but studying offenses as a defense player helped the transition. "In my first three years I have been studying and learning techniques that can be best used to defeat an offense. I learned checks that we would make on the line of scrimmage to take away even the most effective of plays on an offense. Now I needed to learn what to search for in defeating a defense. Having a lot of knowledge about defenses definitely helped, but there was still a lot to get used to."

Wilczynski's studying paid off. Although the Mules came seven points short of defeating the top team in the Centennial, Johns Hopkins, this past weekend Wilczynski had a career game, tying his career high in receptions and setting a career in receiving yards for a single game.

Wilczynski's goal for the final two games of the season is the same as the rest of his teammates. "Finish 2-0." The senior added, "We are playing Gettysburg and Moravian next, two teams that we have a winning history against, and we are all looking to continue that tradition, starting with practices this week."

Carter has high expectations for Wilczynski and believes that his growth as a wide receiver will be on display against Gettysburg and Moravian too. "We expect that Wiz will just keep growing within our offense. His is a unique talent that can be the difference for us on any given play. We're happy with the effort he has given us day in and day out and hope that he is able to continue to thrive for us."

Facing the Fall

BY ALEX HOROWITZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Although the start of spring sports at Muhlenberg is still months away, some teams actually start competition at the beginning of the fall semester. Four of these teams are the men and women's tennis teams and the men and women's golf teams. Despite having their true seasons in the spring semester, these teams engage in several matches throughout the fall season, including partaking in some tournaments as well. Because of the discrepancies between these two seasons, the teams have typically approached each of the different seasons in a unique manner to one another. Aine Filler '19, a member of the women's golf team, placed an emphasis on the team competing in as many tournaments as possible during the fall campaign.

"We always use our fall season as a time to train and work on specific things that we wouldn't normally have time to work on during the spring. Also, we try to schedule as many tournaments as we can in the fall even though this isn't our main season because we never know how the spring weather is going to be and a couple tournaments are usually postponed or cancelled due to inclement weather. We have to play in a certain amount of tournaments for our conference to qualify for the NCAA tournament," she said.

During the 2016 season, Filler was named the Centennial Conference Rookie of the Year and was also a member of the All-Centennial Conference First Team.

When the team is not partaking in tournaments, such as at the Swarthmore/Neumann invitational during the beginning of September, in which Kat Hodges '20 shot a field-leading 82 (+11), they are getting prepped to be in "golf-shape" for the spring season. The team actually has a special tool to practice with that they utilize greatly during the offseason.

"Coach tries to get us playing as much as he possibly can during the fall, which will keep us in shape for the spring season. We have a special golf room with a simulator in the LSC, so coach will have us in there during the fall and the winter to keep us swinging and preparing for the main season," said Filler.

The men's tennis team has taken similar measures to the women's golf team, when it comes to preparing for its spring season. Alex Dagllis '20 said the team uses its fall season as an almost experimental period to figure out the best match configurations for the spring.

"During our fall season, our main goal is to get a lot of match practice and to start figuring out who is going to play where in the line up. Despite not having a playoff to strive for, we did compete in a couple tournaments (one at Connecticut College and the ITA championships at Mary Washington). We also played a season match against Lafayette." He added that that accomplishing this goal is best done through working as a cohesive team that has strong chemistry with each other.

Myles Gross '19, one of the team's veterans, said the offseason has given the team the opportunity to observe the talent of the newcomers to the team. He also echoed the statements of his teammate in regards to the usefulness of these fall tournaments.

"The team has used this fall season to challenge new members to become comfortable with their surroundings. We gained a sophomore transfer and five new freshmen that will greatly contribute to the team. Having the coach find tournaments for us to play in definitely helps us get back into the swing of things after being away from everyone for the summer. We got to play in a few tournaments and even had a big match against Lafayette College," said Gross.

Although the team has faired successful in these several fall tournaments, there are actually some NCAA rules that stipulate what a spring-sport team can and cannot do during its fall season.

"The team has used this fall season to challenge new members to become comfortable with their surroundings."

Gross further explained that the fall season carries limitations on the number of practices and meetings that are allowed to be scheduled.

"We had to stop playing after ITA's which was our last tournament in Virginia. We can still speak with our coach but we cannot have any practices or workouts with him. We still practiced as a team and had matches in the fall," he said.

Overall, the Muhlenberg tennis team appears to be destined for another successful year. Gross was very optimistic when discussing the goals the team strived for this fall season, what that means for when the team takes to the courts again next semester.

"The main goals that our team was trying to accomplish most during the fall season were to show everyone a little taste to the amazing talent we have. Losing a key senior last year in David Woods hurt us and our coach went out there and recruited to find really talented freshmen that can right away contribute. By showing up to Lafayette College, which is D1 and beating them 2/3 doubles matches shows that we can play against great teams. We don't want to sit back and reorganize like you see some teams do when they lose seniors. Our goal is to bounce right back and go to the playoffs. During this fall/winter season we want to be in the best shape possible so when spring rolls around we are ready to go. We don't look like we missed a day of practice. The best feeling in the world is when spring arrives our opponents are going to have a surprise waiting for them when they see Muhlenberg tennis is their next match," said Gross.

It is going to be an exciting year for

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

SPORTS

Thursday, November 2, 2017

From X's to O's

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Kyle Wilczynski '18 spent his first three seasons on defense before shifting to wide receiver for his senior campaign.

By Josh Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

"That tackle was made by number 33, Kyle Wilczynski," booming over the sound system at Scotty Wood Stadium was a common occurrence during the 2015 and 2016 seasons. Kyle Wilczynski '18, more commonly known as Wiz by his teammates and coaches, was a dominant starting outside linebacker for the Muhlenberg football squad. Previous to his senior campaign, Wilczynski recorded seventy-eight tackles and four interceptions, three of them returned for touchdowns.

Wilczynski's senior campaign brought the versatile standout a new challenge. For his final season, Wilczynski made the switch from defense to offense. Specifically, to wide receiver.

The decision to move him from linebacker came during player evaluation meetings during the offseason when Muhlenberg coaches realized they needed to fill in a big void at one of the min offensive positions. This significant absence of experienced talent occurred after the graduation of Muhlenberg record-setters Ryan Delaney and Nick Lamb, who Wilczynski credits for much of the 2016 success.

"I sat down with coach Donnelly, who was the first person to propose the idea to me. Our offense was very strong throughout my junior year in the 2016 season and led in many statistical categories thanks to Muhlenberg standouts Nick Palladino, Ryan Delaney and Nick Lamb. They all had record setting seasons, and they all were also graduating. Our pass offense was the biggest question mark coming in to this season having only one varsity returner, Josiah Wright, so Coach Donnelly, myself and the other coaches all agreed for me to give it a try during our spring ball practices. After a successful spring, the team and I decided I could be best used on the offense at wide receiver," said Wilcznski, explaining the thought process behind the move.

Assistant coach Joshua Carter, along with the rest of the coaching staff, thought that Wiz's skillset on defense could translate at wide receiver. "Wiz is a tremendous athlete who made a ton of plays on the football for us defensively. We thought that Kyle would be a great mixture of size, speed and physicality." Carter also felt that having Wilczynski at wide receiver "would help our team's depth offensively and allow some of our younger wide receivers a chance to grow and mature behind a guy who has shown he can make plays at the varsity level."

Although this is Wilczynski's first year on offense at the college varsity level, he has had some previous offensive experience, although he always felt at home on defense. "I played both offense and defense in high school, however in high school I played running back on offense so there was a lot to learn at my new position. I also played a couple of snaps on offense my freshman year on the JV team when we were short on players in our rotation. Other than that I've always viewed myself as a defensive minded player first."

Although Wilczynski has adjusted well to his new position over the course of the season, he still feels that he has a lot more to learn and credits his teammates for making the transition easier. "I still continue to learn every day in practice. My teammates are extremely helpful in explaining concepts and describing how to alter a route when a defensive player is playing a certain technique, like man or zone. Throughout the season I felt much more comfortable on the field as my knowledge of the offensive playbook increased, as well as my increase in repetitions."

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Senior night success

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

Two games. Two sports. Two victories. Both over Washington College. Both ending in 2-1 final scores.

The most important similarity for both of these sports: the women who have spent four years of their college careers wearing Muhlenberg across their chests were able to walk off the field victors. These victories were a tad different than most — they took place on their program's senior days. It is a celebration of the time, effort and commitment each graduating senior has given to the game that became their life. And for many of the seniors that will graduate from these two teams, along with the majority of graduating student athletes at Muhlenberg, their senior day will be the last opportunity to wear their jersey, or play an organized sport at all.

Field hockey's game on Friday night was the first senior day competition of the 2017-18 school year. The field hockey game came down to the wire. The Mules led at the half, thanks to a goal by Laura Holdman '18. "I said to the team at halftime, 'If I have to have a last game, this is the only way I would want to play it.' It was on our home turf, we came out fighting, we worked hard," said Holdman. After Washington answered to tie the game at 1-1, Muhlenberg proved they had one last trick up their sleeve for the season. With just over two minutes and 30 seconds remaining, Stephi Rydgren '19 scored the game winner, with an assist from Holdman. The field hockey team may have started their season on a rough note, but capped it with a five-game winning streak. "The win on Friday night was all I could have asked for in my last career game," said Holdman. She continued, "I'm happy I got to walk off the field for the last time on a high note. I definitely still cried when the last whistle blew but it made the end a little easier to take."

For this year's senior field hockey class, they deserve to feel accomplished. Holdman says she is proud of the 2016-17 season the team had, her junior year. "We had an incredible team." Among a slew of broken records, an 18-3 record and an ECAC tournament championship, Holdman explained that the success the team experienced in that season, "I love to win, any athlete does. All of the hard work we had put in and the legacy that girls before us had left paid off. I was very proud to be a part of that team." Goalie Emma Rosenthal '18 was also proud of the championship, said "Since we were freshmen it was always a goal of the team to win a championship since it had not previously been done, so to win the ECAC championship while we were here was an incredible feeling. Even though this year our last game was not a championship winning one, it felt just as good to walk off the field for the last time with a win."

Saturday night was women's soccer's turn to send their seniors off on a positive note. They delivered. With a pair of goals coming off of the left foot of Makenzie O'Brien '19, scored within six minutes of each other, the Mules were able to hold off attacks from Washington College to seal the win. The women's soccer program's roster only consisted of two seniors, much less than field hockey's six (women's soccer has 24 players while field hockey has 21). Captain Carly DeNigris '18 spoke about the team's mentality going into the last matchup. "We knew that we had nothing to lose, whether or not we won, it was going to be our last." DeNigris added, "I am so happy that the team pulled together to get a win and end on a high. We deserve so much more recognition than our record shows, and ending on a win confirms that." DeNigris' lone senior teammate, Molly Chiodo '18

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Volleyball

VS

Sat. Nov. 4 at 3:30 pm
@Baltimore, MD

Wrestling

Ned McGinley Invitational

Sat. Nov. 4 at 9:00 am
@Wilkes-Barre, PA

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The Muhlenberg Weekly

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017 — VOLUME CXL, ISSUE 8

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MIA SHMARIAHU

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SGA Elections: What you need to know

The Weekly sits down with SGA Presidential Candidates Karlee Makely, Kyle Mooney and Nicholas Gregg Rubingh to discuss why they would make the perfect fit.

IAN ADLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

The Student Government Association (SGA) hold office hours in their office in Student Life Suite 058. All SGA General Assembly meetings are held weekly in the Seegers Union Great Room at 5:30 p.m.

BY GREGORY KANTOR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, Muhlenberg students will have the opportunity to vote for 22 representatives and a new president to represent them on the Student Government Association (SGA).

The candidates for president are David Berg '19, Karlee Makely '19, Kyle Moore '19 and Nicholas Gregg Rubingh '20. You can read our interviews with Makely, Moore and Rubingh on page five (Berg did not respond to our interview request). You can also read our Editorial Board's presidential endorsement on page two.

All members of SGA serve on internal committees and vote at general assembly meetings, often with respect to student organizations' budgets. SGA meetings are held weekly at 5:30 p.m. in the Seegers Union Great Room.

College to hire new asst. provost for diversity

Interviews to begin in spring semester

BY ALI WATSON
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

If you follow job listings as closely as The Weekly does, you might have noticed a new one pop recently.

And no worries if not, we can catch you up.

The new position is entitled: the Associate Provost for Faculty and Diversity Initiatives (APFDI), which is an extension of the Associate Dean for Diversity Initiatives which is currently held by Dr. Brian Mello.

This has developed from when Dr. James Peck, a professor in the Theatre Department, was Dean a couple years ago when the position was first established. Peck did a lot of "heavy lifting" to make the role what it is today, described current Dean Dr. Mello.

As best explained by Mello, "When Dr. Peck took on the role it was a very formative process… I am not beginning and implementing. There is a clear process for hiring and recruiting faculty, including addressing implicit biases in the hiring process and a whole training program [that exists as well]… [Dr. Peck] had to implement this process, I get to sustain it."

The new incoming provost will be an extension of the current position. Their chief responsibility will be the coordination of faculty searches and overseeing the training for incoming and current professors on diversity issues.

The new incoming provost will be an extension of the current position.

"The new position takes all of the associate Dean's responsibilities, clarifies and expands some of those having to do with diversity, but then the focus is on the faculty," the College's Provost, Dr. Kathy Harring explained.

"There is a focus on faculty, development, on inclusive pedagogy [the method of teaching, especially in an academic setting], dialogue, partnering with admissions, and multicultural life and supporting the Emerging Leaders and position will

SEE **NEW PROVOST** | PAGE 6

IL requirement replacing cluster courses

Class of 2021 will not take clusters

BY CHLOE GRAVEREAUX
ASST. MANAGING EDITOR

Muhlenberg will no longer be requiring its sophomores to take two integrative learning classes called Clusters. Instead, it will be instilling a new General Academic Requirement, called Integrative Learning, beginning with the Class of 2021.

The Integrative Learning (IL) designation is given to select classes which study a single topic through multiple lenses, including different ideological, epistemological, disciplinary, and/or methodological ways of thinking. Courses which will meet the IL distinction include "linked" courses, which are two classes on the same topic, similar to Clusters, select Muhlenberg Integrative Learning Abroad (MILA) programs and a few Service/learning or Community Engaged courses. On Capstone there are seven courses with the IL requirement listed for Spring 2018, and more are to follow.

Like any other GAR, students can take as many IL courses as they would like, and they have from second semester freshman year up until the end of junior year to fulfill the requirement. Clusters, on the other hand, were required to be taken sophomore year. This rigidity in structure was something the Academic Policy Committee (APC) was trying to move away from, explained Dr. Kimberly Heiman and Dr. Sharon Albert, Co-Coordinators of Integrative Learning.

"Integrative learning is a concept that has become central in higher education nationally over the past 10 years or so... The Cluster requirement was Muhlenberg's first attempt at making integrative learning an explicit part of the curriculum," said Albert.

Although the Cluster system itself is being dismantled, the College still highly values integrative learning, explained Heiman.

"I think we as a college would do our students a disservice if we didn't highlight and really focus on teaching those particular skills," said Heiman.

In addition to creating what Heiman called a "richer learn-

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Editorial

First impressions are important:

Choosing non-biased words

The New York Times posed an interesting question in a recent editorial: “Manhattan attack is called terrorism. What about Vegas?”

The words a journalist chooses are central to the first impression in which they imprint on their readers, and are equally pivotal in establishing objectivity. To use such a word “terrorism,” a word whose very root refers to a drastic fear response without first considering the greater effects on the audience is simply irresponsible, especially in trying to be objective.

The word “terrorism,” according to a Merriam Webster blog “The History of The Word Terrorism” actually traces its roots back to the French Revolution’s Reign of Terror. Yes, the word which now carries connotations of religious and racial otherness was coined by none other than the white race to describe violence against itself. Our own founding fathers used the word to discuss tyrannical monarchists, and prohibition-era journalists used the word to depict gang violence. Historically speaking, the word refers to internalized threats.

While the New York Times defined terrorism as “an attack on civilians meant to frighten a larger community for political purposes,” Webster’s definition is strictly free of political connotations. It is simply, “the systematic use of terror especially as a means of coercion.” Various other dictionaries include the political undertones retained from the word’s origins.

Whether or not it is included in the definition, the word carries with it connotations of a political motive, as the Webster article notes: “It has been suggested following recent tragic events that the perpetrators should be referred to as terrorists, and sometimes they are, but predominant contemporary usage still reserves terrorism for those crimes that have specific political motives.”

By this definition, the language makes sense- following a global terror organization’s directions to a T does bring with it a political motive. A single lone wolf shooter does not.

Yet, this seems wrong.

While the acts of the Vegas shooting were infinitely more terrifying, horrific, and psychologically upsetting, the political motive was simply not there. And in that, the journalist is correct. Yet, the poet, the human, may not agree. Although a journalist is not a poet, he must weigh his words like one, choose each carefully, listen to how each one will affect his reader. He must understand the first impression his words will have on another. And this word is a word of sensuality, of fear, a word which should be used with the utmost consideration and caution.

From the Editorial Board of
The Muhlenberg Weekly

Letter to the Editor:

Regarding the Ice Hockey Club

To the Editor:

Some of the fondest memories of my life so far were the eight years I had the privilege of being the Head Coach for the Muhlenberg College Ice Hockey Club. I was asked to become their coach at the end of the 2004/2005 season. Muhlenberg won the GNCHC League Championship that year and the club was flourishing.

The first thing I did was to bring my good friend and fellow coach Bill Nixon on board. Together, we envisioned growing the program and hopefully gaining the respect of the college and Athletic Department. In the early years, Coach Bill and I attended many college hockey showcases and recruited some fine young men to come to Muhlenberg.

At one point, we had at least 25 players. On Friday nights, the rink was packed with students and family members to watch their team. It wasn’t just a game, it was an event. Twice during those eight years, the team made the GNCHC finals only to come up short.

One of the great memories I have is when my wife passed after a lengthy battle with cancer during the summer of 2011, many former players and most of the current team showed up at her memorial service wearing their Mules jerseys. That memory will live in my heart forever.

As the years went by, it became increasingly hard to recruit. Tough academic standards and rising tuition made it difficult to get new players. However, Bill and I, along with coach Howard Unrue, continued to reach out to prospective student/athletes. Bill and I even met with College officials to see if anything could be done to help. Our meeting fell on deaf ears.

I knew at the beginning of the 2013/2014 season I would be retiring from my full time job soon and moving to Hawaii. Late in that season, Coach Bill had some serious health issues that led to him retiring as a coach at the end of the season. By the end of May, I knew Hawaii was calling so I decided to retire after eight seasons and Unrue assumed the head coach position.

I’m not sure what has happened since and I was so sad to read the story, but not totally surprised. Those eight years were the highlight of my hockey life and I consider all my former players friends. I hope in time, the club will come back. I could go on and on with my story. Instead I’ll end with GO MULES!! God Bless everyone who reads this.

- Ken Latteman

SGA Presidential Candidate Endorsement

Over the past few years, Muhlenberg’s Student Government Association (SGA) has taken significant strides in improving its responsiveness to student concerns. They are sponsoring more social events, financially supporting club sports and have helped in constructing college policies that affect us daily — especially with respect to tank tops in the gym, a long-fought battle for SGA. In many respects, it has truly become the representative organization that our student body deserves.

In addition, our staff was impressed that all candidates acknowledged that transparency continues to be an issue for SGA. There is still room for improvement in that respect, and so regardless of which candidate wins next week, we look forward to seeing how SGA tackles communicating with students moving forward.

Yet, there is still significant progress to be made: SGA can still be frustratingly inaccessible to students, with those issues of transparency still at the forefront. And for far too many, it is still nothing more than a bank for clubs – they make two annual withdrawals and otherwise ignore.

It is with these sentiments in mind that the Editorial Board of The Muhlenberg Weekly endorses Kyle Moore for SGA president.

Moore has offered several concrete and achievable improvements for his term with respect to college administration accountability and social life. To be fair, all candidates offered reasonable goals, but what struck our staff most about Moore was his humility.

“I never really wanted to be president,” Moore said in our interview. “We all say we [SGA] want to do great things, but hardly anything actually gets done. The main reason I want to be president is because I want to get stuff done.”

We’re confident an SGA led by Moore will do just that.

- The Editorial Board

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Building fences to destroy borders

When art transcends politics

By Val Weisler
Staff Writer

The sounds of taxis honking and people talking fade into the background as I step in. A reflection of myself in the distorted mirror looks back at me. I walk out and look up, greeted by a gilded cage that fills the space in the famous Washington Square Park arch. I watch as a group of girls giggle and take a selfie inside. If they knew what the installation represented, they would not be laughing.

I am staring at one of artist Ai Weiwei's citywide installation of cages and walls, running from the Flushing to Harlem under the title "Good Fences Make Good Neighbors." For the past two years, the globally renowned artist-activist has been traveling to refugee camps in 23 countries, capturing the struggles of millions as they are displaced from their homes and blocked from crossing borders. Especially in this controversial topic, others may have stayed behind the camera. As a refugee himself, Weiwei has put himself right in front, determined to create change.

I visited Weiwei's art installation and watched his documentary, "Human Flow," as a field trip for my cluster course, which includes the classes 'Public Education for Immigrants in New York' and 'Ethnicity in US Literature.' "Human Flow" dives deep into the international refugee crisis. Over 65 million people have been forced from their homes to escape famine, climate change and war in the greatest human displacement since World War II, according to the "Human Flow" website.

Speak up when someone speaks with hate even if silence is your first instinct. If this issue does not rattle you to your core, educate yourself.

Weiwei has captured the immense intensity of the refugee crisis and the powerful human impact across the globe, in countries including Bangladesh, France, Greece, Germany, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Mexico and Turkey. From refugee camps to railroad-track tents to dangerous ocean crossings, people are risking their lives for safety and justice. But, they are simply greeted by a barbed-wire border and a guard telling them to go back home, as if home is a place they can go back to instead of the ashes of a house riddled by war. Weiwei's installations and documentary scream the question that will define our world: "Will our global society emerge from fear, isolation, and self-interest and choose a path of openness, freedom and respect for humanity?"

This question echoes through our campus as it does through the rest of our nation. Over the past 15 years, thousands of refugees have sought solace in Pennsylvania. If you are lucky enough to wake up each day and know your place in this country is permanent, you must recognize your privilege and utilize it to support those who are not. Call your representatives. Volunteer for the Pennsylvania Refugee Resettlement Program or HIAS Pennsylvania. Speak to the Office of Community Engagement about ways to be an advocate in the Allentown community. Speak up when someone speaks with hate even if silence is your first instinct. If this issue does not rattle you to your core, educate yourself. We all have a responsibility to make sure that when asked if our global society will emerge from fear and choose a path of freedom, the answer bellows, "Yes, yes we will."

Where do we go from here?

Keeping theWeek of Action's momentum

By Taylor Chase
Contributing Writer

Last week, Students for Reproductive Justice (SRJ) hosted Muhlenberg's Week of Action for It's On Us, the campaign seeks to end sexual assault on college campuses. I wanted to start by thanking everyone who came out to support our club and to support the campaign. The number of students who came out to take the pledge was amazing to see. I hope everyone who took the pledge continues to work hard to support survivors, intervene in non-consensual situations and work to create a safe and validating environment.

While taking the pledge is an important step, it is not the finish line. We, as students, need to internalize the goals of the It's On Us campaign and work constantly on dismantling the institutional and societal forces that make sexual assault a normal part of college. I know this sounds like a monumental undertaking, but it really doesn't have to be. If a friend makes a rape joke, call them out on it. If you see a questionable interaction at a party, make sure it's consensual. If someone tells you that they're a survivor, believe them.

I'm not naïve enough to think that one Week of Action will change everything. I also understand that, as President of SRJ, I cannot host one event per academic year and do nothing else. I said it in an article last week, and I'll say it again now – reproductive justice fundamentally includes a culture of consent. I know I will work with my club to help build that at Muhlenberg, and I sincerely hope others will and are doing the same.

One question I was left with after our Week of Action is how we can continue to create a culture of consent. There's no one-size-fits-all solution nor a quick fix. However, SRJ is always open to suggestions. If you are interested in creating a culture of consent, or you are part of (or know of) a group on campus that is already doing this work, please reach out to our club at muhlenbergsrj@gmail.com or to me directly. We want to keep working, and we cannot do it alone.

So, on that note, I have one final question. Where do we go from here?

The secret to getting through registration without disappointment

It could be yours — for a price, of course

By Will Wamser
Senior Staff Writer

I am a sophomore here at Muhlenberg College and I have discovered the secret to the mess that is registration. Every semester I see students of every year scrambling and panicking to get into the classes they desire and or need so as to graduate, and every semester I see those same students disappointed when not everything goes their way. As I watch this, I am left thinking that they are all fools, and guess what, so are you, because I have discovered a sure-fire way to keep away from disappointment at the end of registration. Now, I'm sure you're sitting (or standing) there thinking, "Will, please reveal to me your secrets," to which I respond with, "what's in it for me?" I've got a golden ticket with this quick trick, and you want me hand it out to any old Java Joe Schmo? No! Heck no!

Let me set the record straight: I have nothing. The wife took the kids and my single has never felt so empty. My grades are just not. My phone is never over 13% battery. And worst of all, I've had a cough all week and I think I may be getting sick but it may end up being nothing. Long story short, all I've got in this world is this secret to ensure you register without disappointment. That's all I have, so if I'm gonna give it away, then I'm gonna have to get something in return, because without this one little trick I'd have nothing but the clothes on my back, the love and support of my friends and family, and a hefty sum of money I've stolen from my father, and he's a lawyer so if you tell him that I stole from him I'll sue you.

Now that we know I have something you want, what do you have that I want? I will only give up this secret if you meet my list of demands. Actually, I don't like the phrase "list of demands," that makes it sound like I'm some sort of villain. Let's call them "a list of needs" that must be met or else I will not release my hostage (my hostage being the secret to getting through registration without disappointment). First off, I'm gonna need everyone on campus to sign a letter saying I'm taller than them. Secondly, everyone has to friend me on Facebook and be sure to poke me, no pokes means no secrets for you blokes. Thirdly, I'm allowed to play soccer and no one can stop me. Fourthly, I want to be called Dr. Cool and for Muhlenberg to give me an honorary degree to make it official. Last, but also least, I need the campus to come together as one and finally get Ron Paul in the big chair in Washington. Ron, this is all for you. If these needs are not met then I will burn the paper with the secret to getting through registration without disappointment to a crisp before your very eyes. You have 24 hours starting … now.

I've got a golden ticket with this quick trick, and you want me hand it out to any old Java Joe Schmo?

I want to be clear, I am not the bad guy in this situation. I'm just a down-on-my-luck country boy looking for a quick fix that he has earned. The real enemy here is Barack HUSSEIN Muhlenberg, he's the one who started this mess when he first founded Muhlenberg in 2005, I'm just here to pick up the scraps, and what's wrong with that? I'm like a rat, but not just any rat, I'm like pizza rat, you know the one from the internet that everyone loves. I know I'm not giving you a lot of time, but you guys are going to want to know that the secret to getting through registration without disappointment is not caring about what classes you get because then you won't be disappointed because nothing matters.

Wait, no, don't read that. That was a fake secret, you must meet my list of needs to get the real secret, so I'll be seeing you all on Facebook.

(Note to self: think of a new secret in case they actually meet your needs since you just gave it away).

Campus Safety Notes

Wednesday, November 1
Suspicious Activity - 1:40 p.m.
On Chew Street, there was a report of suspicious activity and individuals looking into vehicles. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and the Allentown Police Department responded and took the suspects into custody.

Abandon 911 - 5:13 p.m.
There was a call received from an emergency phone at the Village 1 at 2259 Turner Street. Upon the arrival of Campus Safety Officers, no one was in the area.

Abandon 911 - 5:15 p.m.
There was a call received from an emergency phone at 2145 Chew Street. Upon the arrival of Campus Safety Officers, no one was in the area.

Sick Student - 6:05 p.m.
In the Wood Dining Commons in Seegers Union, there was a report of a sick student. Both Muhlenberg College EMS and Allentown EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by Allentown EMS.

Theft - 9:30 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of theft of several items. There are no suspects at this time, and the investigation is to continue.

Found Property - 9:37 p.m.
In the Wood Dining Commons in Seegers Union, there was a report of a found credit card. A message was left with the owner to pick it up at the Campus Safety Office.

Thursday, November 2
Theft - 10:30 a.m.
In the Center for the Arts, there was a report of a theft of a wallet and a cell phone, and the investigation is to continue.

Fire Safety Violation - 10:26 p.m.
In South Hall, First Floor, there was a report of a fire safety violation. A smoke detector was found covered with a bag, and the bag was removed by a Campus Safety Officer.

Friday, November 3
Sick Student - 4:25 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by Campus Safet.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 11:59 a.m.
At 407/409 North 23rd Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding because of burnt food. The system was silenced and reset.

Property Damage - 2:37 p.m.
In the Village Upper Lot, there was a report of damage found to a vehicle. The individuals were identified and will exchange insurance information.

Injured Student - 10:30 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an injured student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Saturday, November 4
Noise Complaint - 12:19 a.m.
On campus, there was a report of a noise complaint. Upon arrival, nothing could be noted. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and there was no further incident.

Sick Student - 4:01 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and Cetronia Ambulance responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Drug Violation - 7:50 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of possession of marijuana. The individual was identified and spoken to, and the items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in an evidence locker

Injured Student - 10:17 p.m.
In Walz Hall, Second Floor, there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and Allentown EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Alcohol Violation - 11:02 p.m.
In Benfer Hall, First Floor, there was a report of an alcohol violation. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and the alcohol was disposed of by a Campus Safety Officer.

Alcohol Violation - 11:56 p.m.
In South Hall, there was a report of an intoxicated student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Sunday, November 5
Alcohol Violation - 1:21 a.m.
In Brown Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and Allentown EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Injured Student - 6:50 p.m.
At 319 North 22nd Street, there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital via a friend.

Sick Student - 7:08 p.m.
At 2235 Gordon Street, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and Allentown EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Found Property - 10:31 p.m.
At 2145 Chew Street, there was a report of a found knife. It is unknown to whom the item belongs, and the knife was placed in a lost and found locker.

FROM **New GAR**
PAGE 1

ing experience" in the classroom, the skills learned in integrative learning carry weight in the workforce too. Heiman noted that employers look for interdisciplinary problem-solving in their employees, which can be used to address larger issues.

"If you look at the problems that are facing society and the environment and the world today, not a single one of them is solvable from a single disciplinary perspective," said Heiman, "Take global climate change, for example. There's a scientific/ecological component to that, but there's also a socio-economic component to that, there's a political component to that, etc. There's no way to solve that problem from just one disciplinary perspective."

Gabby Baum '21, a member of the Curriculum Committee which has been approving certain courses for IL designations, agrees that a large part of the liberal arts experience is interdisciplinary learning.

"For me, integrative learning is a large part of coming to a liberal arts college and having the availability to learn things from various, different academic areas and being able to put them together later in life," said Baum.

Baum hasn't taken any IL courses yet but is looking forward to taking one in the Spring.

"Faculty started thinking about how we could do a better job achieving our integrative learning goals almost as soon as Clusters started, and last year we recognized that it was time to make the changes happen," explained Albert.

Multiple students admitted to just taking cluster courses to satisfy GARs, which one student, who took a cluster in her major, felt made her class weaker.

And indeed, the rigid system was not met without challenges.

"The biggest reason why we're moving away from the cluster structure is the scheduling issues and the burden on the sophomore year for students ... The other reasons why the Clusters were challenging was getting 60 professors to be able to teach them," said Heiman.

Multiple students admitted to just taking cluster courses to satisfy GARs, which one student, who took a cluster in her major, felt made her class weaker.

A senior, who transferred their junior year, took their cluster course that year to satisfy three GARs. They said that because nobody cared about the class, and that it was the lowest choice on everyone's list, that everyone was "miserable."

"[The cluster] had no benefit to me," they concluded. "It was a waste of money."

Harry Stein '21, on the other hand, learned how to approach topics from an interdisciplinary perspective without taking overlapping courses at 'Berg. His high school, rather, taught him Algebra and Physics side-by-side, with one class making pointed reference to the other. This semester he had taken Biology as a requirement for his major and Anthropology as a GAR, and he drew on knowledge of the two to form his own opinion on a famous anthropological argument.

"I pulled from everything that I was learning, everything that I knew so I could have my own views. I was reading Geertz and he had his own concrete opinions … It made me want to have some of my own, if very limited in scope compared to theirs," said Stein.

Stein, though, recognized the challenges to implicating interdisciplinary learning, although he thinks it will help immensely in the long run.

"It's difficult. It's intellectually difficult ... Yes, I think it really does [help in the long run], especially in a liberal arts institution and I think in the companies of the future, you have to be able to connect ideas and plans and propositions from multiple sectors, multiple schools of thought to be able to come up with the most creative solution to basically beat the competition," said Stein. "I think it's useful, but not necessary for the college liberal arts experience. I think it's sort of an added bonus."

Dr. Laura Edelman, who has taught multiple Cluster courses with multiple other collaborators, and who intends to teach more linked courses, said she loves the experience because she learns so much from her other faculty members.

"I like seeing what they [my colleagues] do. As a teacher you learn from other people. I learn how other people are in the classroom, and by doing these links, I get to see others teach that I under no other circumstances would otherwise get to see. I'm learning a lot from them about teaching."

Heiman expressed the same sentiment.

"Clusters, as a professor, are one of the most exciting ways of teaching. I really enjoy the process that goes into thinking about how my content can be linked and engaged with someone else's content," said Heiman.

Overall, the interest in integrative learning is still strong at 'Berg, though the method of integration is debatable.

Candidate Close-ups

SGA Election Presidential Candidate Interviews

Nicholas Gregg Rubingh
Class of 2020
Theater

Karlee Makely
Class of 2019
Neuroscience &
Political Science

Kyle Moore
Class of 2019
Economics &
Political Science

Muhlenberg students will decide on a new president and 22 representatives on Tuesday, Nov. 14, in the annual SGA election.

The presidential candidates are David Berg '19, Karlee Makely '19, Kyle Moore '19 and Nicholas Gregg Rubingh '20. The Weekly sat down with three of the candidates to discuss their visions for the school.

The Muhlenberg Weekly: *All of the candidates are well qualified, so what can you offer as SGA president that distinguishes you from other candidates?*

Makely: Makely sees the College as somewhat "cliquey" and feels that her extracurricular interests position her "to benefit all different groups of students at Muhlenberg."

Moore: Moore has participated in SGA becoming an "accountable representative of the student body" over the last year. Moore says he can build upon that record and help SGA serve as a facilitating body with College administrators for student concerns, given his background with Delta Tau Delta and ultimate frisbee.

Rubingh: Rubingh says that he has been successful in soliciting opinions and connecting students to resources that SGA offers. He also feels that he "can surf the waters of bureaucracy" to complete projects more efficiently.

MW: *What have you achieved thus far with SGA that qualifies you to serve as its next president?*

Makely: Makely said that she has served on SGA since the beginning of her freshman year and has worked closely with the current SGA president, Emily Morton '18, on a variety of different initiatives focusing on improving SGA transparency. "I believe we have the best relationship with College administration and students do not necessarily utilize that to its full potential," said Makely.

Moore: Moore has served on the Finance Committee, which successfully fought to eliminate the Class V designation, meaning that club sports can now request SGA funding. Moore says he has also served on the committees that established the new tank-top policy in the Life Sports Center.

Rubingh: Rubingh has worked to improve technology in the GQ lounge and initiated the process of improving payment options for laundry on campus. Rubingh also serves on a college committee that reviews academic petitions where he has successfully collaborated with faculty members to standardize the evaluation process for petitions.

MW: *Discuss one specific improvement to our campus you would set out to complete as SGA president. What is it, why is it important, and how would you achieve this goal?*

Makely: Makely believes that SGA should first strive to get students more involved and knowledgeable about the General Assembly's capacities before identifying concrete things to change.

Moore: Moore sees the lack of activities at night, both during the week and weekend, as a "pressing need" that SGA can address. He sees SGA as uniquely able to deliver these experiences, especially for underclassmen who may not be involved in as many clubs and organizations.

Rubingh: Rubingh says that poor communication between the administration and students is both its own issue, as well as one that exacerbates others on campus. As an example, Rubingh says that insufficiently qualified or unenthusiastic SGA members serve on College committees because often, the committees do not know how to identify other, non-SGA affiliated students; Rubingh believes SGA is an essential piece in assisting with this process.

MW: *A common refrain in general assembly meetings is striving to improve transparency and communication with students and student organizations. How would you rate SGA's transparency and communication, and as SGA president, what concrete efforts would you take to improve them?*

Makely: Makely notes SGA has moved its meetings from Haas to Seegers to be more approachable and see campus-wide events as a way to increase transparency. Makely says that SGA's Diversity and Inclusion committee is "under-utilized" and she plans to make it more influential and useful.

Moore: Moore believes that SGA does not participate in enough public outreach events and does not sufficiently publicize their meetings and office hours. "Our main priority should be to ensure that all students know what SGA is and how we can help," said Moore.

Rubingh: Rubingh says that currently, SGA treats transparency as a "passive process," in that their meetings are available and meeting minutes are posted online. Rubingh wants SGA to be "actively transparent" through advertising meetings, better utilizing social media and sending out periodic emails with short SGA updates and requests.

MW: *What does SGA currently do to support marginalized students on campus? What would you do to improve this?*

Makely: Makely says that multicultural clubs and organizations come to SGA for funding, so while SGA knows what events and activities are being hosted, these groups do not necessarily know what other types of support SGA can offer. She proposes regularly scheduled meetings with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee to facilitate these conversations.

Moore: Moore criticized the administration's inaction following recent events like the Bear Security incident in September and the Alternative Center for Ethics posters that were posted after Janaya Khan's speech last month. "SGA needs to do a better job holding the administration accountable and pressure them for real change," said Moore.

Rubingh: Rubingh says that although SGA recently formed a Diversity and Inclusion Committee, he is frustrated because it has yet to meet. "SGA needs to actively meet with these communities and identify what their needs and concerns are, and then connect them to resources that we offer," said Rubingh.

MW: *Why do you want to be SGA president?*

Makely: Makely feels that Muhlenberg is her second home and she hopes to leverage her position as SGA president to ensure others have the opportunity to feel the same way. "Muhlenberg is an inspiring place and I believe that if you feel comfortable at your college, you will have more chances to be successful," said Makely.

Moore: Moore says that he is tired of SGA only having conversations and feels that if elected, he is best positioned to translate that talk into action. "SGA has been trudging in the mud for the last couple of years. The main reason I want to be president is because I want to get stuff done," said Moore.

Rubingh: Rubingh says that he has demonstrated to himself and others that he can address concerns with concrete solutions. "I believe I can bring dedication, energy and creativity to the presidency, and those are important qualities for any leader," said Rubingh.

From Wittenberg to Muhlenberg

500 years of Lutheranism and where we are today

Two of the illuminated bibles that are part of a larger collection of Lutheran artifacts that are currently on display in Trexler Library's Rare Books Room as a part of the exhibit "Opening Luther's Door," celebrating the 500th anniversary of Lutheranism.

By Ethan Forrer
Contributing Writer

Exactly 500 years ago, on a day that would later be known as Halloween, Martin Luther nailed the Ninety-five Theses to the door of All Saints' Church, in Germany, preaching reform to the indulgent ways of the Catholic Church.

In 1742, Henry Muhlenberg, a prominent Lutheran pastor, immigrated to Pennsylvania with his family to unite the scattered believers into one organized North American Lutheran church. In 1787, Henry Muhlenberg's son General Peter Muhlenberg, also a Lutheran pastor, was elected to be Vice-President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on a day that has yet to be known as Halloween.

In 1848, a Lutheran seminary was formed in Allentown that was then revamped into Muhlenberg College in 1867. It was named after the famous lineage featuring Henry Muhlenberg's great-grandson Frederick Muhlenberg as the first president.

About a week ago, on a day very much known as Halloween, Susan Falciani, the Special Collections and Rare Books Librarian here at Muhlenberg, compiled several documents from Muhlenberg's archives and put together the exhibit "Opening Luther's Door: Lutheran Education from Wittenberg to Allentown" in the Rare Books Exhibit Room.

In "Opening Luther's Door," Falciani tells the story of the development of the Lutheran philosophy and how it was incorporated into the liberal arts education we have today as a Lutheran college. The beginning of this story is told with literary artifacts like original Lutheran religious pamphlets, some from as early as 1720 and one in particular featuring what is most likely a signed address from Martin Luther himself to a supporter of his at the time.

Muhlenberg College has a long history of educating people so they can go out on their own, find their own beliefs and understand the diversity of this world.

Moving chronologically through the exhibit, the story continues with a revised copy of Luther's original fully translated bible, the first bible to be translated from old Latin into German for the masses to read. Next to it is an original copy of Johann Eck's competing bible translation to German, one of Luther's main rivals from the Catholic Church, which preached anti-Lutheran ideals. The rest of the exhibit displays various documents from Muhlenberg College's past from back when it was still a seminary all the way up to the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Henry Muhlenberg coming to America.

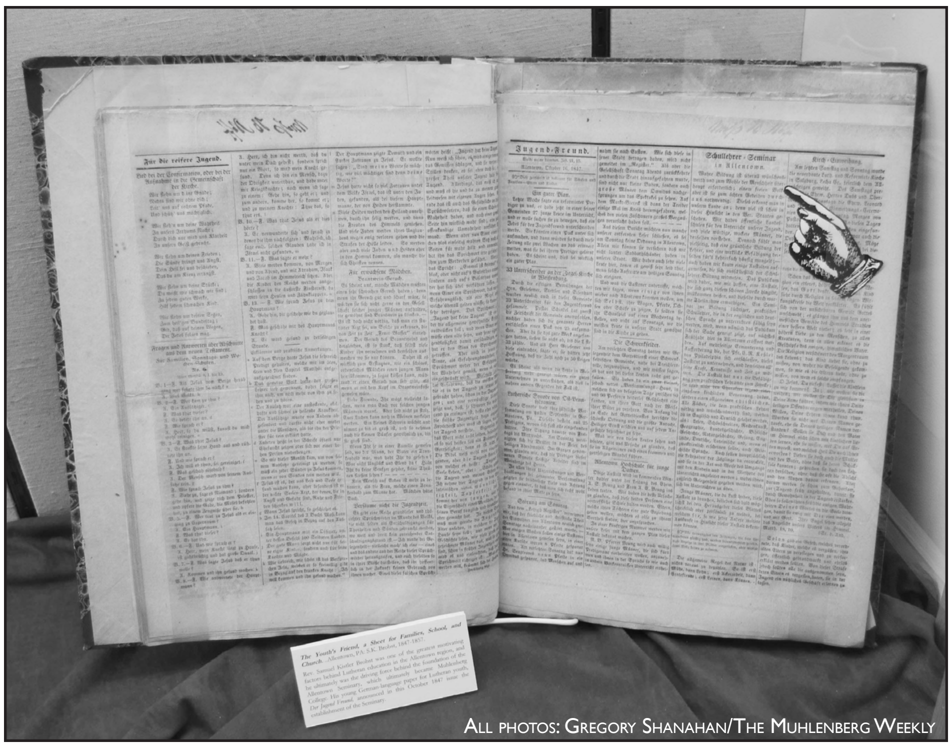
The main tying principle that makes us a liberal arts and Lutheran school is due to one of the core concepts that Luther had known as "vocation." Luther believed in the importance of the idea of a vocation in religious life and for all life in general. Falciani further explains, "there's a tradition that involves training students to find their place in the world, this idea of a vocation."

Similarly, the liberal arts are all about us perceiving the outer world around us – to see the meaning behind other's points of view and to understand the world in our own ways so we can thrive even in situations that are new to us.

"The Lutheran education has always been about that," Falciani continues, "but it's more about vocation, which is your 'where do I fit in that?' so it's not just about being well rounded and able to adapt but it's more about 'where is my place?' 'what is my calling?'"

Just because we're a Lutheran college or we practice Lutheran ideals doesn't mean we don't embrace other religious ideals or other points of view in general; quite the opposite in fact. Muhlenberg College has a long history of educating people so they can go out on their own, find their own beliefs and understand the diversity of this world.

The Rare Books Room will be holding open Luther's door whenever the library is open for the next six months. Stop by sometime, read a rare book and see if you can start to find your own calling in this world.



All photos: Gregory Shanahan/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Der Jugen Freund announced the opening of the new seminary school in Allentown that would someday become Muhlenberg College.

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from **New Provost**
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support adjunct faculty," Harring said.

The search committee will be composed of Harring, Robin Riley-Casey, Dr. Paul Murphy, a representative from the Faculty Center for Teaching, a representative from PDAC, and Bruce Anderson the dean of Academic Life and Equity Advocate, as well as Lori Flatto, who serves as an administrative assistant.

The committee is starting to vet applications, and will begin skype interviews in January. This will be followed up by on-campus site visits in January and February, which will include the opportunity for student input, interaction, and evaluation with candidates.

Harring sees this position as serving the role of a connector within the community.

The search committee will be looking at applicants both inside and outside of the campus community. As described by Dr. Harring, the team is "targeting professional organizations where they would be getting a diverse pool."

One of the primary tasks of the Dean, which will transfer over to the APFDI, is overseeing the implementation of the five-year diversity plan and chairing the President's Diversity Advisory Council (PDAC). Robin Riley-Casey, the director of Multicultural Life, Dr. Mello and Harring agree that progress has been made towards achieving some goals set out in the plan, while also recognizing there is much more that still needs to be done. The implementation and growth of this role will also hopefully galvanize progress.

Overall, Harring sees this position as serving the role of a connector within the community. As such, they are ultimately "looking for someone who can integrate and connect because those connections really matter."

BergBeat magazine

Issue 1, November 2017

"Alcatraz Hospital" by Drew Bates. Creative Commons, 2014

MAKING AN IMPACT

FINDING ALTERNATIVES TO INEFFECTIVE ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES

By Chris Barron, '18

Shortly after classes let out at Dieruff High School on a Tuesday afternoon, a melee broke out that attracted up to 100 students. The fight was a result of an argument that occurred between two students at lunch earlier in the day. Two teenagers were carrying handguns, which they used to pistol-whip two boys. One was hit at least 50 times on the head before he lost consciousness, while the other was hit repeatedly on the neck. Both teenagers were charged with aggravated assault, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, conspiracy to commit aggravated assault, riot and possession of a firearm by a minor.

Sadly, this isn't an isolated event. During the 2013-2014 school year, 65 percent of schools reported at least one or more acts of violence. While reports of fighting in schools are actually decreasing, it's clear that violence and crime among young people is still a problem. Schools usually combat this violence with "zero-tolerance" policies. These types of policies require schools to administer harsh punishments when a student breaks certain rules. The punishments are handed down regardless of the reason for the behavior and past history of disciplinary problems. Some people refer to this style of punishment as "one strike and you're out," because a single instance of bad behavior could mean suspension, expulsion, or even a criminal record.

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According to the Department of Education, an estimated two million students are suspended from high schools every year, while a little more than three million students graduated high school in 2013. If about two thirds of students are suspended, clearly not all of them are dangerous; most were suspended for relatively minor offenses. In fact, nationally, only five percent of expulsions or out-of-school suspensions lasting a week or longer involve possession of a weapon. Compare that to the 43 percent that are due to insubordination. Moreover, no studies show any correlation between out-of-school suspension and a decrease in bad behavior. In fact, in some cases, it causes repeat offenses.

In short, the current process of punishing young people is not helping to fix the problem; it could very well be making it worse. The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report released in 2013 found that 20 percent of juveniles recidivated (committed another crime) within two years of their case closure. Clearly, the current system of punishment is not working.

The IMPACT Project in Emmaus, PA is helping to combat this problem. With two diversion programs – the School Justice Panel and the Community Justice Panel – IMPACT's work has helped reduce the recidivism rate of adolescents and makes sure that they don't fall into a cycle of criminal activity. The programs work with young people who have been charged with either a summary or misdemeanor offense such as minor criminal activity, use of tobacco in school, or disorderly conduct.

The Community Justice Panel (CJP) program was started in 1999 in order to prevent young people from having criminal records so early in life, while still holding them accountable for their behavior. Here's how it works: if a youth is charged with a summary or misdemeanor, and it is their first run-in with the law, they may be referred to the CJP program. CJP gets referrals from police departments, judges and juvenile probation officers. If they are accepted, and the student and their family are willing, they will appear in front of a panel of trained community volunteers who will discuss the incident in detail. They will discuss what the student could have done differently in the situation and address any problems at home. At the end of the session, the panel will draw up a contract with items for the offender to complete. The contracts are uniquely tailored to each individual based on their age and the nature of the offense, but items may include doing community service, writing an apology letter to the victim or writing a research essay about the incident. In six weeks, the panel meets with the student again. If the offender has completed 100 percent of the contract and has stayed out of trouble both with police and in school, they will have successfully completed the program. This means the charge will be dropped and the student will have no criminal record. However, if the student completes less than 100 percent of the contract, the charge will not be dropped and they must appear in front of a judge.

"You want them to be smarter when they get done with your system than when they came into your system," says Dwight Lichtenwalner, coordinator of the School Justice Panel program. "Hopefully they become a more productive member of society."

The program, of course, is not without its flaws. Lichtenwalner says a common problem is that many parents aren't willing to cooperate, and therefore the student is unable to participate in the program. Many of these parents, he says, have been in and out of the prison system themselves. However, even with these roadblocks, the CJP and SJP have managed to make significant progress in their effort to reduce juvenile recidivism. And the numbers prove it.

Of the 1,913 youth who successfully completed their CJP contract between 2000 and 2013, only 36 (1.88 percent) committed a misdemeanor or felony in the next two years. Of the 786 youth who were referred to the Community Justice Panel but chose not to go through the process, 4.83 percent recidivated. That means those who went through the CJP process were 2.5 times less likely to commit another crime. Even those who went through the CJP process but did not complete 100 percent of their contract had a lesser recidivism rate (3.32 percent) than those who did not go through the program at all. This means even if a child doesn't fully complete the program, the lessons learned during the experience leave them less likely to commit another crime than those who did not go through the process at all.

"Justice" by Paul S. Creative Commons, 2017.

The School Justice Panel (SJP) began in 2009, ten years after the start of the CJP program. SJP is very similar to the CJP, but only concerns the four Allentown middle schools and only applies to incidents that occur on school grounds or in transit to or from school. The SJP program stands out among other diversion programs because it offers a mental health assessment on every child referred to the program, a component that is crucial to stopping repeat offenses.

"In Lehigh County, 40 percent of kids who come into the juvenile probation department have some sort of underlying mental health issue," says Lichtenwalner. "If you can help fix these underlying mental health issues, which oftentimes lead to the offense, then there will be less offenses in the future."

Since 2009, 600 students have been referred to the SJP program. Of those accepted into the program, 62 percent have successfully completed their contracts. Less than five percent of those who successfully completed the SJP program have reoffended, compared to the 15 percent of students who either did not go through the program or failed to complete their contracts. Even more important, 56 percent of the kids who have gone through the program have been referred to some sort of social service or mental health treatment. Forty-two percent have actually received treatment.

Amy (her name has been changed) was one of the first students referred to SJP in October of 2009. She was a 12-year-old student at Raub Middle School who was charged with Harassment By Physical Contact after she threw a basketball at a girl in gym class five times, causing her to have to be transported to the hospital for medical treatment. Through the tests and mental health screenings, professionals on the panel discovered that Amy had anger issues, difficulty at home with her siblings and mother and did not deal well with authority figures.

Amy's conversations with the panel were less than civil, and Lichtenwalner says the panel questioned whether or not she should be accepted into the program. But, he says, "you cannot induce change in youths if you don't even give them a chance."

The panel eventually accepted her and they discovered that Amy took interest in reading, writing, dancing and riding her bike. They made a contract for Amy with those interests in mind. Her contract consisted of the following: stay out of trouble with police and in school, investigate and join either a local dance academy or the school's basketball team ("she was a bit of a loner and depressed although she wouldn't admit it, and she was large for her age both in height and weight, and wanted to change," Lichtenwalner recalls), participate in the school's health club, write a letter of apology to the victim, keep an anger journal, follow through with individual therapy and meet with one panelist who was a reading teacher at her school to talk about bullying and then complete a writing assignment based on it.

Amy's contract process was momentarily halted when she received a detention. She had been chewing gum in class. When her teacher asked her to throw it out, she became disrespectful and talked back to the teacher. However, the panel decided that given her past disciplinary history, to only have one small infraction over the course of eight weeks was still a significant improvement. They amended Amy's contract to include an apology letter to the teacher.

When Amy returned to the panel for her review hearing (the meeting when the panel reviews the student's contract and determines whether or not they succeed), she was an entirely different person. She was smiling and interacting with members of the panel. It was a "vast difference," according to Lichtenwalner.

Amy joined the school's basketball team and soon became their star player. She completed the program successfully and has not had any more disciplinary problems since her completion of the program.

According to research into zero tolerance policies, punishments today are much more severe and applied more broadly than they used to be. Most of these policies warrant out-of-school suspension for a wide range of offenses – originally for things like possession of illegal drugs or deadly weapons, but now also for much smaller infractions like smoking tobacco on school grounds or fighting in school. These types of punishments, while severe, may not have any impact on the offender. In other words, the report concludes that even after a suspension from school, their behavior will not change.

While it is important to reevaluate what actions warrant punishment, it is also crucial that the punishment process becomes one that is much more focused on rehabilitating individuals in ways that will work best for them. The IMPACT project has proven that it is possible to get progress as long as the punishment inspires growth and change within the offender.

Lichtenwalner said he realized he wanted to work with children during his internship with the Allentown Police Department. He spent time in the youth division and particularly liked the way one of the officers with dealt with the juveniles. "It wasn't just arrest and be done with it," he remembers. "It was work with them, give them a chance, talk to them as a real human being."

As diversion programs – like the Community and School Justice Panels – show, treating young people like real human beings doesn't just stop them from committing crimes; it molds them into respectful, responsible future leaders.◆

Hogar CREA
Freemansburg
(610) 694-0700

Photo by Lydia Belden, '17

By Kiley McBride, '20

FLAN FOR FREEDOM

In the 1970s, a Bethlehem, PA. school teacher named Anita Amigo wanted to do something to help her students who were arrested for drug offenses. She found her solution in Puerto Rico.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 76.9 percent of drug offenders are rearrested within five years of release and jail time alone will not help a reoccurring drug issue, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. But in Puerto Rico, Amigo found an organization, Hogar Crea, that offered a better option. Hogar Crea creates a space where substance abusers can live, work, receive therapy to reintegrate into the community and educate the community about addiction.

Amigo brought Hogar Crea to Pennsylvania in 1981 and there are currently five locations between Allentown, Bethlehem, Reading, and Lancaster. Two of the five facilities are for women and three for men.

Entering Hogar Crea in Freemansburg, PA, there was an overwhelming sense of home with offers of tea, coffee, or water to whomever steps through the doors. Iris Martinez, the facility project director grew up in Bethlehem and has been a part of Hogar Crea her entire life. Martinez walked into the living room and announced to the men who were seated in various couches surrounding a TV watching the Eagles game that she had brought candy canes. The residents cheered and one came to grab the box and hugged her. She motioned toward the Christmas tree in the corner of the room that was brightly colored and decorated by all the men collectively.

Martinez explained that the residents come from all different backgrounds with a variety of health issues. Thanks to a license from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs that they recieved in 2016, licensed professionals like Martinez can come in and provide counseling to the residents. Some of the men have been living in the house for two to three months but some, like Danny Rodriguez, have been in out of the program for many years. The men said that Hogar Crea helped them better themselves and be a part of society again while remaining substance free.

"Addiction is no joke," Rodriguez frankly stated, "it stops your growth mentally."

Upon entering Hogar Crea, a resident must read the rulebook, which many attribute as the key to their success and rehabilitation. Rodriguez said that reading the book is like looking in a mirror. "The philosophy was well built," says Rodriguez. "A lot of people have tried to find something wrong with it and couldn't. It was very well put together on what is an addict. We identify so much about ourselves in there." Other therapies include education therapy, group therapy, occupational therapy, civility therapy, and the residents favorite, sales therapy.

Hogar Crea, which translates to *community for the re-education of addicts* is a nonprofit organization funded through the residents selling goods, such as flan, throughout the Lehigh Valley. But, sales therapy, as they call it, is more than just making money. Sales therapy is one of the biggest parts of recovery at Hogar Crea. It allows the residents to practice their skills by engaging with the community and is also a time when the residents test their resolve in the midst of temptation. Rodriguez says they walk past drugs and drug dealers on the streets all the time. Some of the people on the street will offer the residents drugs and some will ask to be brought to Hogar Crea for help. "Being in Crea uniform is like a forcefield," says Dean Martinez.

Stefan Weber says that "working with the community makes you feel a part of something other than yourself. It is the biggest thing that helps me." Sales therapy also teaches the residents a sense of responsibility because the money they earn is needed to keep the facility open.

Dean Martinez said he spent most of his life in and out of jail and tried multiple rehabilitation programs but nothing helped until he came to Hogar Crea. He is now out of prison for seven years, a record for him. Martinez said he has gained control over his temper and has more patience, responsibility and confidence from his experience at Hogar Crea

Out of the 19 residents in the Freemansburg facility, only two are first time residents. Hogar Crea has an open door policy allowing people to come back as many times as they need. There is also no time limit on a resident's stay at Hogar Crea. If a former resident feels like they are going to relapse, or they already have, they can come back to Crea to "recharge their batteries," as Rodriguez says. The only way to be kicked out it is break the first rule: no fighting. But, even then the resident is transferred to a different location and not kicked out of the program entirely.

Miguel Gonzalez, the supervisor of the Hogar Crea in Freemansburg, and a former resident of the treatment program at Hogar Crea, sees the positive support from the community when residents go door to door selling flan. Gonzalez explains that the residents have a newfound politeness in society and have learned how to function substance free within the community. If they ever encounter a difficult person they simple say "God bless" and leave.

Substance abuse has wide roots affected families without discrimination. Because of that, Gonzalez believes communities are quick to embrace those who are struggling to get better.

For the residents, the Hogar Crea philosophy provides a sense of belonging and they see themselves as members of their communities. But it all starts with knowing there is a place that will always leave the door open.◆

To see Lydia Belden's video on Hogar Crea, go to youtu.be/xMBttPeO4Ak

A SECOND CHANCE

By Sara Allison, '17

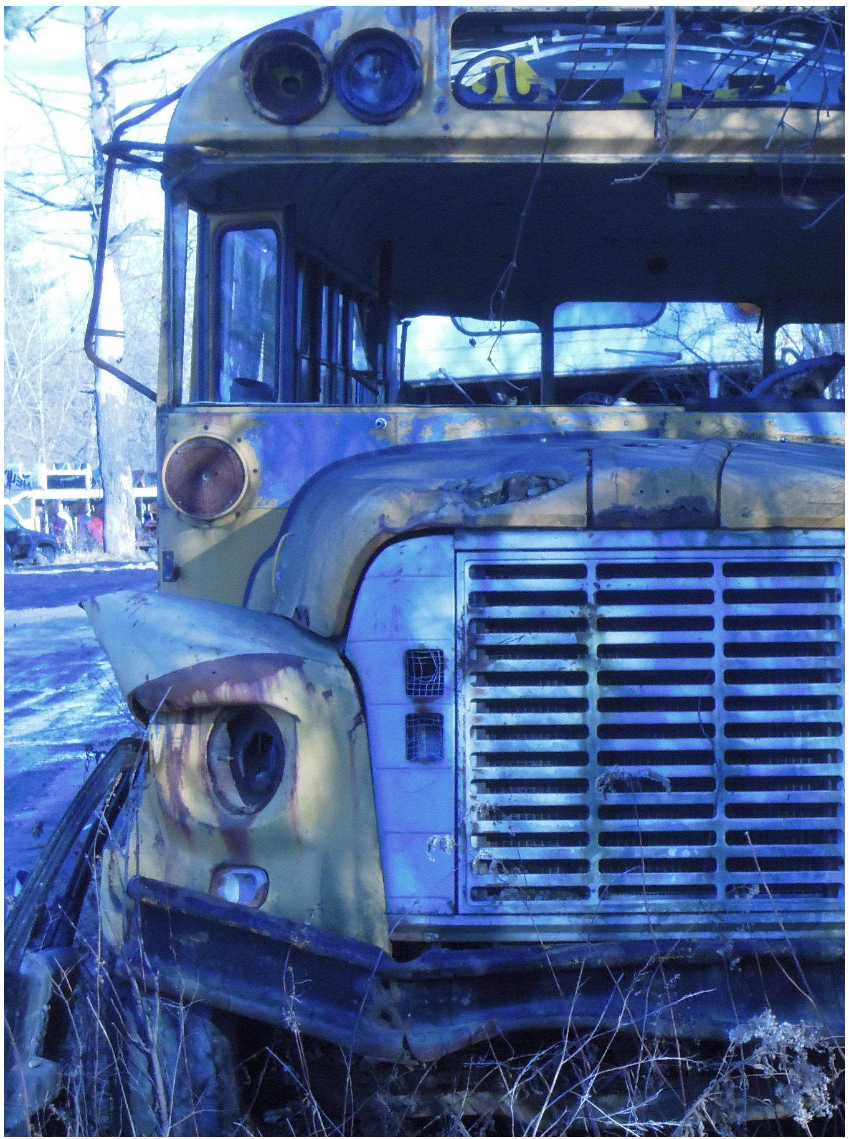

Photo credit: "No School Today" by Rik Shaw. Creative Commons, 2012

On the corner of 4th and Allen Streets in downtown Allentown, sits a brick and stucco school building reminiscent of the Alamo. Cars speed by on a cold December day as students shuffle inside – but they are not headed to a typical high school. They are attending an alternative program, run in partnership with Communities in Schools (CIS), meant to assist students who struggle in conventional school.

In the Allentown School District (ASD), many students suffer from financial issues and struggles at home, leading students to feel as if dropping out is the only option. Over 40 percent of ASD students never make it across the stage at graduation and almost 90 percent of the students are considered economically disadvantaged. The CIS program has been assisting students in Lehigh Valley school districts since 1983 and provides different types of education initiatives such as alternate education support services for students who struggle with the standard high school curriculum.

At the William Penn Building at 4th and Allen, CIS runs the re-engagement center to help students finish their high school education with either a diploma or GED. The center is not a typical classroom setting – there is an open space for students to work at their own pace as well as online sessions for those who cannot physically come into the center. They provide computers for students and you will often see students and CIS employees working together on a smart board. The employees of the re-engagement center have cubicles in the classroom so that students feel comfortable asking for guidance.

The program seeks students who are willing to pick up their education where they left off, but they can be hard to find. Jon Fenner, CIS program manager, keeps a list of students who drop out of school in Allentown and along with Manny Torres, an outreach worker, they contact students from the list and talk to them about the re-engagement center. When Fenner and Torres first came to CIS they were nervous that the program wouldn't succeed. But at William Penn, they managed to convince 138 students to return to school in the first year of the program.

Torres has lived in Allentown his entire life and has connections within the Allentown community. He spoke of how his involvement is always connected back to Allentown. "One of the major initiators of the program was my high school principal," said Torres "so it was neat to see him in a different light and in a different situation. It's something that makes me proud, makes me feel good to give back and see students that were in my shoes and help them get to a better place in their education."

Not only does Torres's commitment to the Allentown community influence his connection with the students but he also takes pride in the fact that, like most of the students he works with, he is Latino. "The larger dropout population is Latino and in working with these students there's been a lot of times where I have to translate," said Torres. "I have lived in center city Allentown my whole life so I've been in their shoes. I think it serves as an example that you can be where you are now and get out of it and not let that be an indicator of where you're going to be."

Rodney Edwards and Luaida Melendez are two of the students enrolled in the re-engagement program at William Penn. "I dropped out last year and I got a call from them saying that I could re-enroll in school and finish and get my diploma," said Melendez, recounting her time at Allen High School. "If you put your time into it and your focus on it, it's easy, it's not like going to school but you do learn." Melendez is soft spoken and nervous so being in a classroom at Allen was not the right fit. "I get distracted easily," said Melendez "So being by myself on the computer is way easier because I can concentrate on what I'm doing."

Edwards expressed how the typical high school classroom was not the right fit for him either. "I started freshman year and I wasn't focused at all," said Edwards. "School at that time, I didn't respect it, I didn't understand what I was there for and I didn't understand what I needed to do to earn it." Edwards began school again at Dieruff High School but soon started to skip class. He transferred to William Penn and again just stopped going to school. "They officially kicked me out, I never wanted to drop out, they just kicked me out" said Edwards. "It took the time of me actually being a dropout to realize how important school is and what I was missing out on as far as the high school experience. I got in touch with the re-engagement program and they helped me out."

Despite a non-traditional education experience, Melendez has big dreams for the future. "I want to go to college. I want to do culinary arts or become a veterinary technician," she says. Edwards also has a goal in mind, "I want to get right into college." While Melendez and Edwards had atypical school experiences they both found their way back to the classroom with a different sense of respect for education. Their detours from the typical educational path were beneficial to get them where they are now.◆

FROM THE EDITORS:

This issue of Berg Beat is the culminating project of a semester-long reporting assignment for our Intro to Narrative Journalism and Video Journalism classes last year. The collaboration also resulted in a documentary film covering POWER Northeast's efforts during the Trump/Clinton election (view it at vimeo.com/241121802) and an article which appeared on nextcity.org.

Our class work was part of The Reentry Project, a collaborative news initiative based in Philadelphia. Supported by the Solutions Journalism Network, the project explored the social and economic toll of high recidivism rates and highlighted models that demonstrate promise in facilitating a successful transition for returning citizens. The year-long project resulted in numerours newspaper, magazine and radio pieces tackling the issue of reentry. We are proud to be part of this important collaboration.

We would also like to thank the Department of Media & Communication for funding the printing of this magazine.

-SV & AEB

BERG BEAT Magazine
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BERG BEAT Magazine is a special publication of The Muhlenberg Weekly. The articles are student generated, but edited by a faculty editor as part of a semester-long reporting project. The Weekly editorial board provides oversight for the topic selected but not the individual articles.

Arts & Culture

“Art begins with resistance — at the point where resistance is overcome.
No human masterpiece has ever been created without great labor.”
– Andre Gide

Little time, big impact:

Studio productions bring pressing issues to the stage

By Brooke Greenberg
Contributing Writer

All photos courtesey of Mia Shmariahu

From left: Alexandra Rivers ‘21, Willie Naess ‘21, Zachary Lopez ‘21, and Daniel Bolriber ‘20 dance their way through *21 Chump Street*.

Three days, four shows and countless emotions flooded the black box theatre for the studio productions this past weekend. Studios are student directed, managed and produced and are a great opportunity for underclassmen to get performance experience. I personally attended *The Transition of Doodle Pequeno* and *21 Chump Street*. Both shows were wonderful selections and truly showcased a wide array of talent that Muhlenberg students have to offer. However, both shows have extremely compelling messages. *The Transition of Doodle Pequeno* focuses on identifying sexuality and *21 Chump Street* focuses on racial profiling concerned with drugs.

Within the first few minutes of *The Transition of Doodle Pequeno*, I immediately started assuming that it would be just another silly children’s show. Fast forward a mere 15 minutes, and the inner-workings of my brain were beginning to get oiled up—I started thinking deeply about the characters. The protagonist, Doodle, just moved to California and is the new kid. It is Halloween and all he has to keep him busy is his imaginary pet goat, Valencia. Reno, Doodle’s neighbor, shows up on Halloween dressed as a “vaudeville vampire” and tries to befriend him and encourages Doodle to wear dresses. Despite their identity differences, they are able to see beyond their basic gender expressions and form a unique friendship.

“This show strengthened my opinions [about the importance of a diverse community], and how I have already felt about the subject,” said Zach Lopez ‘21. “I already felt as if people should be able to be who they truly are because there is no ‘normal.’ Normal is just this idea and concept that society came up with what they thought the ideal person should act like and be like. A definition some random person came up with. There is no such thing nowadays like ‘this is girly,’ and ‘only boys do that,’ because they’re all just labels that people put on an idea, but in reality, there is really no label. There is no rule that says you can’t do certain things and I hope the people that see the show can learn that and spread that message along to others.”

Lopez plays Doodle Pequeno, who is going through a difficult time during which he must not only identify himself in a time of change, but also a time where many people are also exploring their identities. Although Lopez is not currently the age of Doodle, he finds Doodle a relatable character overall.

“I relate to [Doodle] in the racial aspect of life and at times feeling like an ‘alien.’ In theatre, it was a HUGE place where I felt this. As a minority, there aren’t really chances for me out there and I’m kind of profiled because of it. But, like Doodle, we are both finding our ways through things,” said Lopez. *The Transition of Doodle Pequeno* also focuses on other complex topics such as language and sexuality and loss and grief. By the end of the show, what started out as a typical children’s play turned into one of the most heartwarming plays I have ever witnessed.

Although *21 Chump Street* is just under twenty minutes in production, its messages and subject title were so hard-hitting, it may as well have been a full-length musical. Written by the Hamilton legend himself, Lin Manuel-Miranda, *21 Chump Street* is a musical that discusses racial profiling in association with drug deals. The main character, Justin Laboy, is caught in the middle of a drug deal when the girl who he has a crush on, Naomi, asks him if he smokes weed. Doing anything to impress her, he goes out to purchase some and then unintentionally sells it to Naomi. What Justin does not know is that Naomi is an undercover cop, sitting in on classes to try to get the inside scoop on what goes on in terms of drug deals. Justin eventually gets arrested as a result of the deal. Lior Algrably ’19, the director of *21 Chump Street*, spoke about the impact of the show.

“*21 Chump Street* does a good job in starting the conversation about racialized stereotypes associated with the ‘war on drugs’ initiative. During the rehearsal process, I believe that it is a result of stereotypes put on people of color. This musical is only the beginning of a longer conversation. Justin Laboy’s story is only one of many. These undercover operations that are supposedly keeping kids safe is still ruining the lives of so many, specifically children of color. It is our responsibility to keep researching and questioning/pushing back against these institutions,” said Algrably. To add to the discussion, Algrably also looked up the socioeconomic diversity of the high school that Justin Laboy went to, as this was a true story. I was personally touched, and in complete awe by the end of the show, as in such a short amount of time, an incredible message and compelling story was portrayed.

These shows packed such meaningful messages within their shortened time frames. Throughout my experience attending the Studio productions, the gears inside my brain were turned in a way that they usually are not. Because of performances like these, important conversations are beginning and spreading to something bigger than the just black box.

Karla Sagastizado ‘21 (left) and Lily Randall ‘18 (second from right) perform in *The Transition of Doodle Pequeno* by Gabriel Jason Dean, while Analia Heredia ‘21 (second from left) and Zachary Lopez ‘19 (right) showcase their talents in *21 Chump Street*.

Dancing in the light: Diwali at Muhlenberg

Students and guests come together to celebrate a night of Indian culture

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Eliana Westfield/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Select members of Top Naach pose in their *lehenga choli* after performing a traditional Bhangra dance during the Diwali festivities.

Walking through Seegers Union on Friday, I couldn't help but hear a faint yet bright melody traipsing throughout the building. It seemed almost to invite me to follow its echoes, promising a colorful and celebratory scene at its source. Upon arriving at the Event Space, its doors flung open and lights turned on to maximum brightness, my friends and I were greeted by a circle of smiling dancers – people from all cultures and backgrounds twirled and stepped to the beat in a Garba dance, hailing from the North Indian state of Gujarat. Behind us, a long table bore traditional Indian food, including chai tea and samosas, next to a pair of girls who applied henna designs to the arms of guests. This delightful array of true-to-life representations of Indian culture was all gathered for one reason: the festival of Diwali.

Though the actual holiday of Diwali began on Oct. 19 this year, Muhlenberg's Bollywood dance team Top Naach hosted their own school-wide celebration on Nov. 3. Taj Singh '19, the group's newly elected president, was heavily involved in the planning of the event.

"Diwali, short for 'Deepavali,' literally translates to 'a row of lights' in Sanskrit. Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over dark, good over evil and knowledge over darkness. Usually it is celebrated alongside fireworks, and the ceremonious lighting of lamps (called 'diyas'). Usually it is celebrated over three to five days, all over India and abroad by many, but mainly by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists," said Singh. "The eBoard and I worked hard in working with Sodexo to have food catered and also worked with our advisor, Dr. Parikh, to plan activities and a presentation of the holiday for the event. We also prepared through developing our own choreography and audio mix. Practicing for our performance was also a big part of preparing for Diwali."

And perform they did – though the festival featured some other on-campus groups, such as Live in Color and the Acafellas, Top Naach remained the main event. Throughout the night, they performed two separate pieces in two different styles, one a more modern Bollywood dance mixed with hip-hop beats and the other a traditional Bhangra dance performed by some of the group's women, who were clad in skirts and scarves called *"lehenga choli."* Top Naach has always been one of my favorite dance groups on campus – every time I watch them perform, it is immediately clear how much everyone involved truly wants to be there. The stage lights up with joy and I always end up wanting to be a part of the dance by the time the song ends. This performance was no different, thanks to the talents of founder Nupur Reddy '19.

"From the past two years until now, I have choreographed dances for the club, taught the dances (our practices/rehearsals are once a week for an hour and a half) and organized events like Diwali, Holi and a new event we hosted this semester called Chat with Chai," Reddy said.

This Chat with Chai event marks a new chapter in Top Naach's presence on campus, according to Singh.

"We currently are trying to start a community service side of our club, so as president, I have also recently been in contact with representatives of organizations in the Allentown community," said Singh. "As a dance club, we enjoy spending time with one another outside practice, so the eBoard and I also work to plan events, formal or non-formal, such as team dinners and Bollywood movie screenings … 'Chat with Chai' [was] open to the campus to discuss Indian stereotypes and cultural aspects. Afterwards, we had a team dinner of some great, traditional Indian foods from a local restaurant."

This vital sense of connection with others in the group extends even to newer members of its ranks, such as Nisha Godbole '20.

"I joined Top Naach my first semester here, so last Fall!" Godbole said. "It gives me an opportunity to continue dancing and meet new people!"

Though the members of Top Naach certainly find common ground in their love for Bollywood and general Indian dance, each member celebrates the holiday of Diwali in their own way.

"Diwali means a huge celebration with family and close friends, good food, and lots of lights," said Reddy. "My family performs a ritual at an auspicious time on the day of Diwali, we have friends and family over, light firecrackers and sparklers and we all eat a large dinner and a variety of Indian desserts that night."

To Godbole, "Diwali is an exciting time of year where you can get together with family and friends, buy new clothes and, best of all, eat good food."

For Singh, celebrating the holiday is itself an act that breaks down barriers.

"To me, Diwali is a great holiday and way for families and people across cultures to unite. That is one of the main reasons why Top Naach puts on the celebration of Diwali," Singh said. "Many people do not know the cultural significance and other aspects of Indian cultures, which arguably can lead to stereotyping and other negative aspects. However, using Diwali and other celebrations as an avenue to educate others in a fun way is really how I see the holiday. Of course, as someone with an Indian background, there is also a personal significance to me, as I enjoy celebrating the holiday with my family and family friends! Spending time with them, engaging in common practices, listening to traditional music and having traditional foods is a great way for people to come together and recognize the significance of the holiday."

Whether you celebrate Diwali every year or are just now hearing of it for the first time, acknowledging the importance and validity of cultures from around the world in a setting where people from that culture determine how it is portrayed is a rare opportunity to appreciate – not appropriate – something you might just find amazing. Make sure not to miss Top Naach's next event by keeping up with them on Facebook at Muhlenberg College Top Naach Dance Club.

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Muhlenberg College Dining

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Raise your voice: 5 hot open-mic venues in the Lehigh Valley

By Emma Forgione
Contributing Writer

Okay, real talk: a lot of people at this school have talent. From the outstanding number of people who do theater, dance and music, to the people who can stand on their head and juggle with their feet, Muhlenberg is an exciting and peculiar breeding ground for new talent. Many of our students perform on campus, and we enjoy and appreciate the life they bring to our hallways and grassy expanses. But there are some hidden gems that lie beyond Muhlenberg that can be just as influential for practicing a trade — and making some money along the way. Without further ado I give you five off-campus venues for public, open-mic performances.

The Shanty on 19th Street:

I discovered the Shanty when I was working for the Civic Theater on their production of Sondheim's Assassins. The Shanty is a bar about a block over from the theater; it's a treasure of a joint that hides away from the Muhlenberg crowd. However, the walk to the Shanty is worth it because it offers live music almost every night. Thursday is karaoke night, but if you walk in and speak to the managers, they will sit down with you and talk to you about performing. If you have a guitar and a dream, this is the place for you. I went earlier in the semester with some friends, and the managers were so happy to see Muhlenberg students that they bought us drinks and told us to bring more of our people in!

The Bookstore in Bethlehem:

If you can make it all the way out to Bethlehem, you have to check out the Bookstore. It is a 1920s speakeasy literally hidden behind the façade of a bookstore. Enter into a dimly lit, smooth jazz club, with people dressed to the nines and cocktail menus hidden in classic literature. Each night they have a live jazz band that plays everything from covers of popular songs to jazz standards. A few weeks ago I took one of my best friends and one of the most talented performers I know, Kelly Shannon '18, there for her birthday. My friends and I convinced the managers to let her sing for everyone, proclaiming that she had the voice of Etta James, so they let her do a cover of "At Last" and the place ate it up! They gave her their contact cards and asked her to come and sing again.

McCarthy's Red Stag Pub in Bethlehem:

Another secret of Bethlehem, McCarthy's, is also a haven of performance. It's a true Irish-American bar, complete with performances every night. There is someone new playing there during each visit. The first time I went, two friends actually took me there for my birthday, and the performer wrote me an impromptu customized birthday song and even got his album some press by giving it to our whole table. Being in Bethlehem also allows for performers to widen their audience beyond a Muhlenberg crowd and to sell their talent to people they may not have met otherwise.

Hava Java on 19th Street:

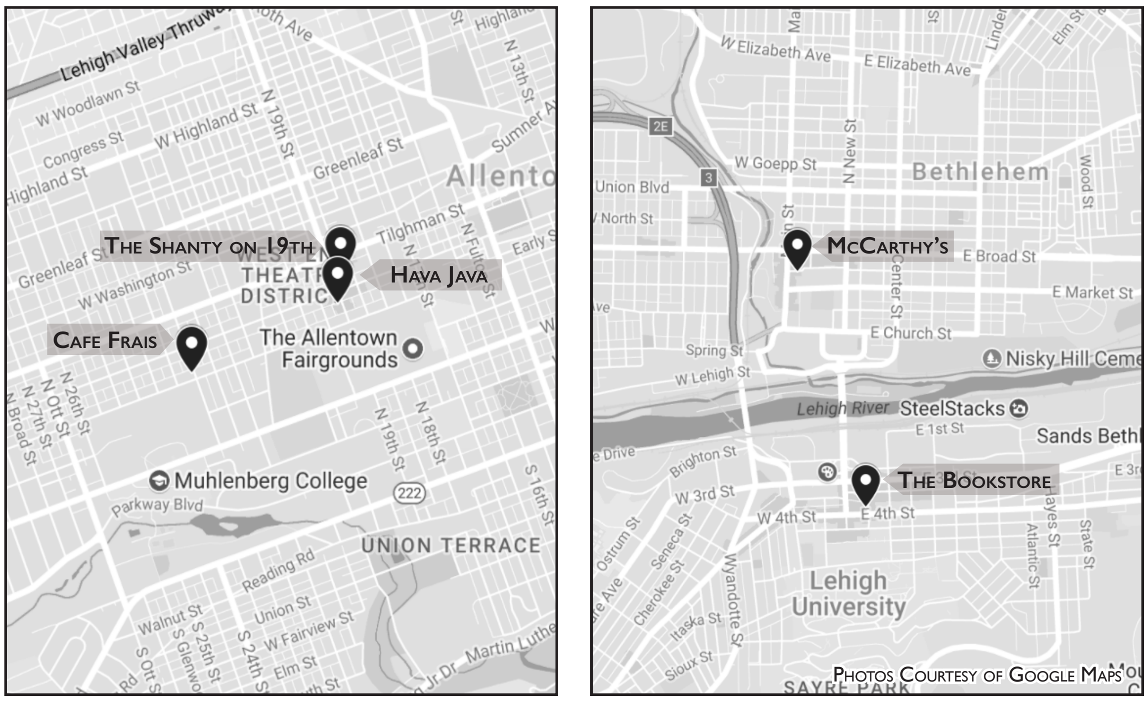
Hava Java is a cute little coffee shop on 19th street right across from the Civic Theater that actually has open mic nights a couple of times a month. I've seen everything from musical performances to people performing poetry to play readings there. It is an intimate little atmosphere where you can grab a cup of coffee and mingle with people from Allentown who want to know about your work.

Café Frais:

Café Frais just opened across the street from East Hall. I have only been there once because it opened a couple of weeks ago, but the management team let out that they are going to start having live performances there. A venue that is basically on campus, Café Frais is a New York style café with insane breakfast food and another intimate atmosphere that is perfect for performances. It would be ideal to hop onto this idea if you are looking to perform a cabaret-style show for the public. And because it is so close to campus, I can imagine a performance there will garner an audience of Muhlenberg students and Allentown residents alike.

What I've realized in visiting these places is that the key to performing is the art of asking. A performance space does not have to be a big stage; it can be one of these intimate bars where you can affect people just as deeply. I know I would enjoy my dining experience with a little added fun.

And if you feel you need more practice performing before going out into the "real world," why not do it here while you can?



Photos Courtesy of Google Maps

Look around these locations in Allentown (left) and Bethlehem (right) for some lesser-known performance spots.

Freshman Follies: exploiting embarassment

Behind the scenes with Muhlenberg's all-female comedy group Damsels in Excess

By Arielle Moss
Contributing Writer

Last Thursday night in the Event Space, Damsels In Excess completed their goal to "exploit embarrassment, profit from pain and commemorate the cringe of being a NOOB in College, High School, Middle School, Life," in their first show of the semester, "Freshmen Follies."

Damsels in Excess is Muhlenberg's one and only all-female short-form improv comedy group, which was founded in 2012. During each year, Damsels performs two shows in the fall and spring semesters as well as partaking in a joint show with the performance ensemble Fun with Science in the spring.

Current members include: Emma Rosenthal '18 (Co-President), Rebecca MacKillop '18 (Co-President), Asherde Gill '20 (Vice President), Hannah Schmitt '20 (Social Chair), Julia Tyson '18 (Morale Chair), Carrie Dickson '18, Jessie Kuehne '21, Elizabeth Templeman '20 and Ana Tolvo '21.

Damsels have a specific audition process for selecting new members, which occurs once each semester. During auditions, people play some improv games with the current members as well as pitch sketch ideas.

They then have a callback process that consists of playing some more improv games, asking people to read a side from a previous Damsels sketch and submitting an original fully written sketch.

"I get inspiration from things that happen to me, jokes that come up in conversations, interesting scenarios I imagine," said Schmitt."I have a running list on my phone of sketch ideas and I know a lot of the other girls keep lists somehow. It's a different process for everyone."

Regardless of whether or not they have an upcoming show, Damsels have rehearsals twice a week, one hour on Tuesdays and two hours on Sundays, and if they feel unprepared before a show, they find the time to rehearse for another hour or two.

Social Chair Schmitt explains that during a rehearsal, the group either does sketch comedy, improv or both. They start with improv as a warmup ,and if they are doing sketches, they will either have a pitch circle where they sit together, pitch sketch ideas and help each other expand and clarify their sketch concepts. On other sketch days, they will read through and workshop already written sketches that members have sent to the group. For improv rehearsals, they play a few games and practice different forms that they often use in shows.

"Scripts originate from sketch ideas that members pitch. Usually we will all talk through the pitch and develop it together. We will then workshop sketches in rehearsal," said Schmitt. "Also, many girls will just post new sketch scripts and ask for feedback in the Facebook group. Every now and again we will write in groups or teams."

For each show, they try to alternate between sketch and improv, sometimes even mixing in A/V.

"We end every show with 'Our Form,' which is an improv form unique to us – it is a mash up of a few different pre-existing forms," said Schmitt.

The amount of improv versus sketch comedy depends on how many sketches have been written and are ready. Damsels try to have a "loose theme" for their shows that can be incorporated into sketches. They usually present two to four improv forms/games per show. For casting sketches, they try to keep track to make sure that casting is dispersed as equally as possible.

"I'd say my favorite memories come from filming the video sketches. They're so much fun and we get to just goof around with each other while enjoying a great final product," said co-president Rosenthal.

"Freshmen Follies" started off with a pre-recorded video about how the Damsels are back together. Many of the scenes had to do with the problems of being a freshmen, such as being "sexiled" from your dorm. A scene that bookended the freshmen scenes together was a member playing an "O-Group" leader as well as members playing freshmen during orientation. Other scenes featured the Seven Dwarfs' secret polygamous relationship, cooking and an intervention about pooping dogs. The show ended with Art Form improv.

Follow Damsels In Excess' Facebook page to find out about upcoming performances that will make you laugh!

Digging deep: Mules struggle in semis

By Max Shapiro
Contributing Writer

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Muhlenberg Volleyball's team could not overcome the Swarthmore Garnet in Centennial Conference Postseason Action.

A historic, record breaking season. A 13 game win streak. A Centennial Conference tournament berth. It all came to a disappointing end for the Mules on Sunday, Nov. 5, with a loss to Swarthmore in the Centennial Conference Tournament semifinal. However, the girls' season did not end without a gutsy fight to the end.

In the semifinal match the squad found itself facing match point on two separate occasions, in two different sets. And twice, the girls found a way back, and stayed alive. Down a point in the third set and facing a sweep, three consecutive kills from the Mules sent the match to a fourth set. The ensuing fourth set was one for the history books. Deadlocked at 19 points apiece, the Mules and Garnet exchanged points back and forth, running the score up to 27 for each squad. Every time one of the team's gained a point advantage, the other would answer to tie the game. The Mules served with the opportunity to force a fifth and deciding set three separate times, but each time the Garnet fought them off to keep the set alive. The Garnet also served for the match at 27-26, but the girls fought back from match point yet again to deadlock the score at 27.

After that, Swarthmore finally took back to back points, ending the game, the match and the Mules season. The 29-27 was crushing for the team, as all year long the girls have relied on their ability to come back from early deficits, and perform during the most important points. While their luck in crunch time finally ran out on Sunday, the girls held their heads high, proud of their valiant effort. "We put a lot of hard work in to our season and although we did not win a championship we are really proud of ending 24-6 and clinching a regional ranking. Next year we are looking forward on continuing to work hard and hopefully make Muhlenberg volleyball history and win a conference championship," junior caption Shannon Hubert said. Hubert recorded 46 assists in the match, making her the second player in Muhlenberg volleyball history to record 1,000 career assists.

Despite the disappointing end, this season was one to be remembered for a long time, as well as one to build on for next year. From Sept. 9 to Oct. 4, the Mules simply did not lose. They were dominant, compiling one victory after another, their win streak eventually reaching 12 before their next loss, one shy of the school volleyball record. The girls came into this season a young, unproven team, and ended it with a national attention in the rankings for Division III volleyball.

And though this year is now over, there is an abundance of promise for the 2018 season. The girls team is impressively young for their talent level, without a single senior on this year's roster. The Mules will return every player next year, a rarity in college athletics. Given the success the team had this year with such young talent, it is exciting the think about where this team will be in a year. They will be hoping to return more polished, talented and ready to compete for the Centennial Conference title, something that eluded them by just two victories this year. "While we would have loved to win our semifinal match, we had such a great season and I am so proud of everything we accomplished as a team. I don't think we have anything to hang our heads about and I look forward to seeing what we will do next year," sophomore Tara Register said.

Gaining Mulementum

Athletic Department hopes to benefit from Muhlenberg's day of giving

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

In a previous issue of The Weekly we took a look at a particularly impressive fundraising effort, which was the Kwik Goal Team Shelters that the men's and women's soccer programs will get to enjoy for many years to come. With that said, there is a rapidly approaching date aimed at fundraising within the Muhlenberg community.

Mulementum will take place on Nov. 16, and although it is a schoolwide event, this fundraising effort serves as an integral time for sports teams to collect money to put towards initiatives different programs look to accomplish.

Specifically in athletics, many teams rely on donations like the ones collected during this annual event to provide necessities such as equipment, parts of uniforms and other program expenses. This is because many of the operational budgets, or the monies set aside by the school to provide for each athletic program cannot cover all of the costs.

What makes Mulementum so important for athletics is that any donations made on Nov. 16 submitted on behalf of a specific athletics team will roll over and count towards perks which can be earned during a different fundraising event that happens later in the year at Muhlenberg: Mule Madness. The importance of the rollover is the previously mentioned perks. For example, there is a bonus award given to each team which has their 100% of their seniors participate. Therefore, it gives teams extra time and opportunities to donate, which could lead to more money added to a program's budget. According to the Senior Associate Director of Advancement Communication, Heather Fox Lavin, 15 teams had 100% participation in the 2016-17 academic school year. Eight whole teams also reached 100% participation. Milestones such as these are what makes programs eligible for perks which usually include additional donations from sponsors who pledge to match gifts after participation goals are met.

A stronger participation now can lead to even more rewards during the sports programs at Muhlenberg.

Fox Lavin also wanted to make it clear to donors that their money goes where it is intended. To clear up the process in how donations are designated she used an example, "It's important to realize that wherever (a donor) designated their gift, that's where the money is going to go. Like if someone says they are giving 100 dollars to baseball, then that is where it's going. We will never switch a donor's preference," says Fox Lavin.

Overall Fox Lavin hopes that Mulementum can "kick off a great start," for this academic year's fundraising efforts for the college as a whole, and acknowledges that it is an important time for athletic programs to start bolstering their budgets. Being that this year is the fifth year of Mule Madness Fox Lavin also mentioned that there are some new additional perks that the college is planning on rolling out in the second semester. With that said, a stronger participation now can lead to even more rewards during the sports programs at Muhlenberg. "We are looking to grow and build," Fox Lavin said. "Mulementum is all about participation, and this year we are looking for 2,500 donors all on Nov. 16 in a 24-hour period."

FROM **BASKETBALL**
PAGE 12

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

Kevin Hopkins, Men's Basketball Coach, addresses his team at a preseason practice.

the Mules in the right direction with his leadership and knowledge of the game.

In the off season the team dealt with several injuries. Despite the adversity, the Men's team looks to make a name for themselves behind the new program that has been established. Senior captains Nigel Long '18 and JeanLee Biaz '18 will lead the team, while supporting Coach Hopkins new game styles. The Mules look to change their defensive strategies from a faster paced man on man defense, to a slower zone defense. Hopkins stressed the importance of how every player on his team makes a difference. There are also high hopes for the five freshmen on the team who hope to make names for themselves in their first campaign as a Mule.

Many athletes struggle to win just one championship with their team during their college careers. Not the Women's Basketball team. Aside from the freshman and transfers, not a single player on the team's roster has ended the season without being named conference champions. "This season is going to be very special for the seniors, since they have yet to lose a single playoff game," said Rohn. "It would be quite the accomplishment for the seniors to win the Centennial Conference championship all four years of their college careers." Rohn stressed the importance behind his team's success. "My players are a great group of women that work hard day in and day out." Most people would think that there is not a lot of stress on the women's team this year, since they have won the championship three years in a row and did not lose many players. However, that idea is wrong as the women have to work twice as hard as they did last season if they want to achieve their incredible goal.

The team has also faced some minor setbacks in the offseason, as several players unfortunately went down with minor injuries. Before the Scotty Wood Tournament, the women face off against Moravian College next week to kick off the season. The injuries are being recovered from and the women are looking stronger than ever in their everyday practices.

Rachel Plotke '18, Brandi Vallely '18, Christina Manning '18 and Chelsea Gary '18 are excited to accomplish a goal that is very rarely achieved. There is something very special about these girls, as they look to lead their team to fourth consecutive championship. All four of the seniors are captains of the team, which is a huge honor. They each bring qualities of leadership, skill and experience that will rub off on the younger girls. "The freshmen have adapted quickly to our type of playing and their knowledge of the game is very high," said Rohn.

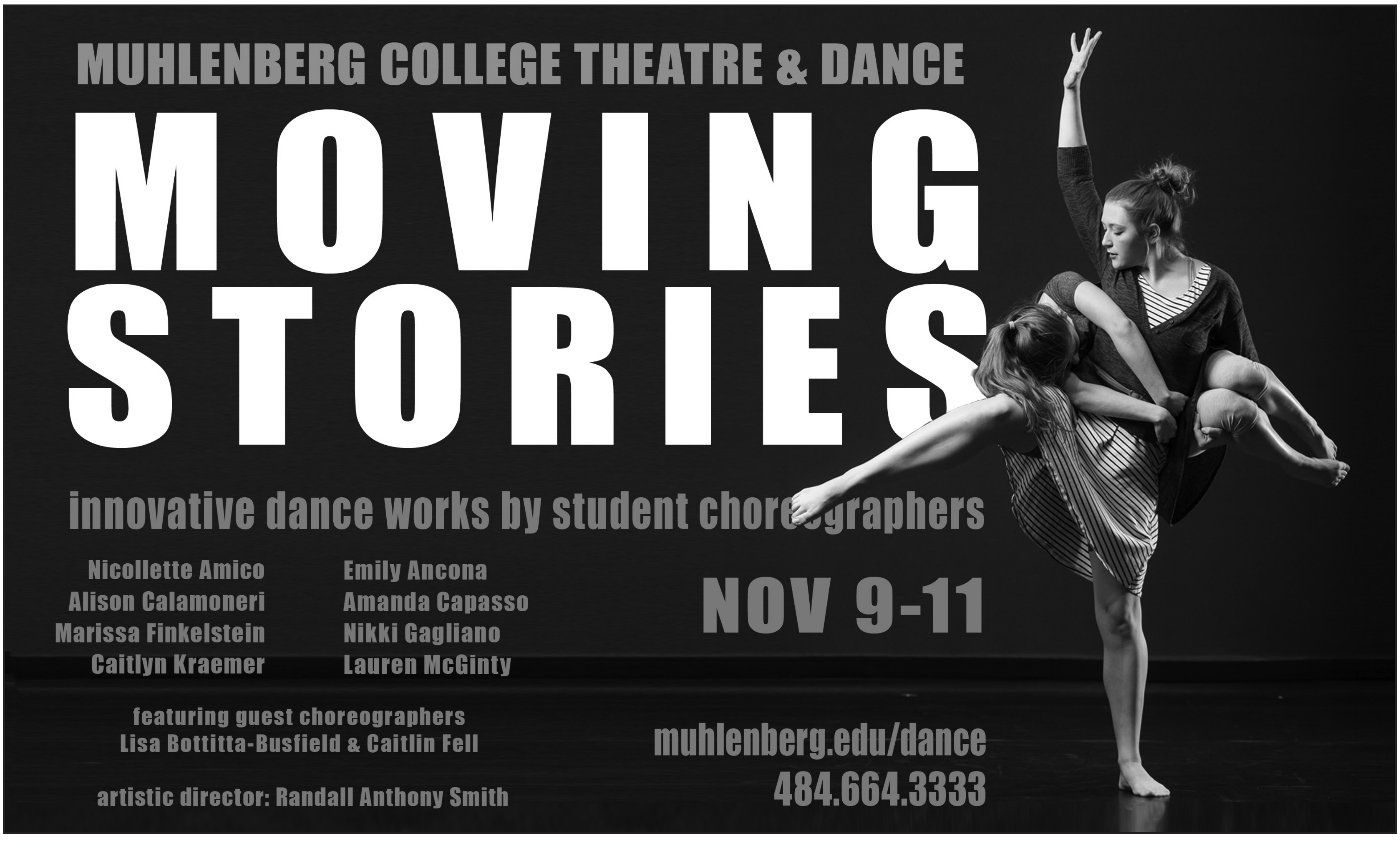
The men's and women's teams enter the year with high goals to achieve. A new head coach looking to take his newly acquired program to the next level and a streak of perfection for the other will surely lead to more storylines to come.

FROM **WRESTLING**
PAGE 12

challenges that entails." He also made sure to not pinpoint any one match on the schedule just yet. His mentality is to treat every match as important as the next and to continue putting in the time, effort, and work that is necessary to improve the Muhlenberg Wrestling program. He especially made it a point of emphasis to make the program intriguing to potential recruits. When a recruit is considering joining the Mules wrestling team, he wants them to think, "Muhlenberg is where I need to be."

With a determined roster and a head coach that brings the perfect approach to the team, this could be one of the best seasons in program history. Although they will continue to take it one match at a time, Armus said that the team still has some impressive goals that they believe are more than attainable. He thinks that the team can reach new heights this season.

"The overall goals for the team this season are to have the wrestling team's first winning record in over 10 years, place top five at conferences, and to push more than one person through regionals into the national tournament this year. Some of those goals are lofty, but with our fantastic new coaching staff made up of All-Americans that are training us like All-Americans, we believe more and more every day that it is possible."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The Muhlenberg Weekly

SPORTS

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Beginning a breakout season

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Gennaro Cerminara '19 during his bout at the Ned McGinley invitational at Kings College.

By Alex Horowitz
Sports Editor

This weekend, the Muhlenberg wrestling team began competition in their 2017-2018 season.

The team placed sixth out of 12 teams at the Ned McGinley Invitational Tournament at Kings College. This year the team will be competing under the reign of new Head Coach McLean, who is a former collegiate wrestler himself and a Muhlenberg wrestling alum. There are high expectations for the team this season, and they all have a lot to look forward to. For the seniors, who have finally reached their final season as Muhlenberg student-athletes, this is a very sentimental time for them. They know that this is their last opportunity to give everything they have out on the mat, but the overwhelming feeling is that they are excited for this chance to continue to prove themselves.

In addition to improving on individual results, the graduating class of 2018 hopes to bring success for the overall team as well.

Benjamin Peck '18 is looking forward to his last go-around with the Mules and views this season as an opportunity to leave the school on a positive note.

"The seniors are excited to end our Muhlenberg wrestling careers on a high note. We have been through three different coaching situations and really saw the wrestling program develop into what it is today. The seniors are ready to have a fun season and win some titles," said Peck.

In addition to performing well at the matches, this group of seniors is also looking to have fun this year, to really enjoy the ride as collegiate student-athletes. Fellow senior Logan Laughlin '18 expressed this sentiment when asked what this season means to him.

"Speaking for my fellow seniors we've been told by Coach Sonnie to just work hard and enjoy every bit of the year and that he is gonna try and make sure it can be as enjoyable as possible for us," he said.

Despite the excitement of the seniors for this season, they are not the only wrestlers on the team who are looking forward to beginning a new year out on the mat. Rob Armus '19, who was unable to compete for most of last season with an injury, is excited to get back to competing. He foresees a dominant year for this year's squad.

"I firmly believe that the wrestling team is going to have a breakout season this year with the amount of talent we have developed, and the potential of the underclassmen. I think Gennaro Cerminara, Ben Peck, Jimmy Fratantoni, Dylan Schwartz and Jake Gordon and myself are all due for breakout years, barring any injuries which have been a problem for our team in the past," he said.

Although Armus is only a junior, he has formed close bonds with many of the elder wrestlers on the team. He has relished the opportunity to receive advice from them throughout his three years thus far at Muhlenberg.

"There's really nothing I need to say to the seniors that could help them at this point. Obviously I support them in every way and I'm always down to give a solid pump-up speech, but honestly I'm learning the most from them. Especially Ben Peck and Jake Gordon. I have been able to get really close to them, and to see the amount of work they have put in, and the comfortability with which they compete knowing that they've been around the block a few times is inspiring," said Armus.

While these wrestlers have all been on the team for at least several seasons, Coach McLean is set to begin his first year as the team's new head coach. Even before the opening match, McLean was addressing the need for the team to maintain a positive mindset and to have a team-first attitude.

When asked what he was most excited for upon commencing the season, McLean said, "The opportunity to get Muhlenberg to where its supposed to be. The opportunity to surpass expectations and the

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Football

VS

Sat. Nov. 11 at 1:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

Wrestling

Roger Williams Invitational

Sat. Nov. 11 at 10:00 am
Bristol, RI

Women's Basketball

VS

Wed. Nov. 15 at 6:00 pm
Bethlehem, PA

Men's Basketball

VS

Wed. Nov. 15 at 8:00 pm
Bethlehem, PA

Time for tip off

What to look for on the court for the Men's and Women's Basketball teams

By Steven Shoemaker
Contributing Writer

The 2017-2018 season is just right around the corner for the Men's and Women's Basketball programs. The two teams tip off their seasons on November 17th in the annual Scotty Wood Tournament. Both teams won each of their two games that were played in the tournament last year, winning the tournament championship. The men's team, who finished at exactly 500 last season (12-12), look to improve this year with their new Head Coach, Kevin Hopkins. The women's team added another banner to Memorial Hall, finishing last season with an unbelievable record (20-8), seek to pick up right where they left off as they aim to finish first in the Conference, as well winning a fourth consecutive conference championship.

"This season is going to be very special for the seniors, since they have yet to lose a single playoff game."

Men's Head Coach Kevin Hopkins, looks with high hopes for the Mules this up and coming season. "I have always enjoyed coaching and playing for Division III basketball," said Hopkins. "I came to Muhlenberg because being a part of a close-knit community with a high level of education is important to me." Hopkins stressed the importance of making sure that his players grow mentally and physically on and off the court. One of the main goals for the 2017-2018 season is to improve bit by bit each and every day. The Mules seem to be in good hands with Hopkins who was part of a National Championship team, as both a player and Assistant Coach at Amherst. As the 25th Men's Basketball Head Coach, Hopkins looks to lead

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Serving the Muhlenberg College Community Since 1883

The Muhlenberg Weekly

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ELIANA WEINFELD/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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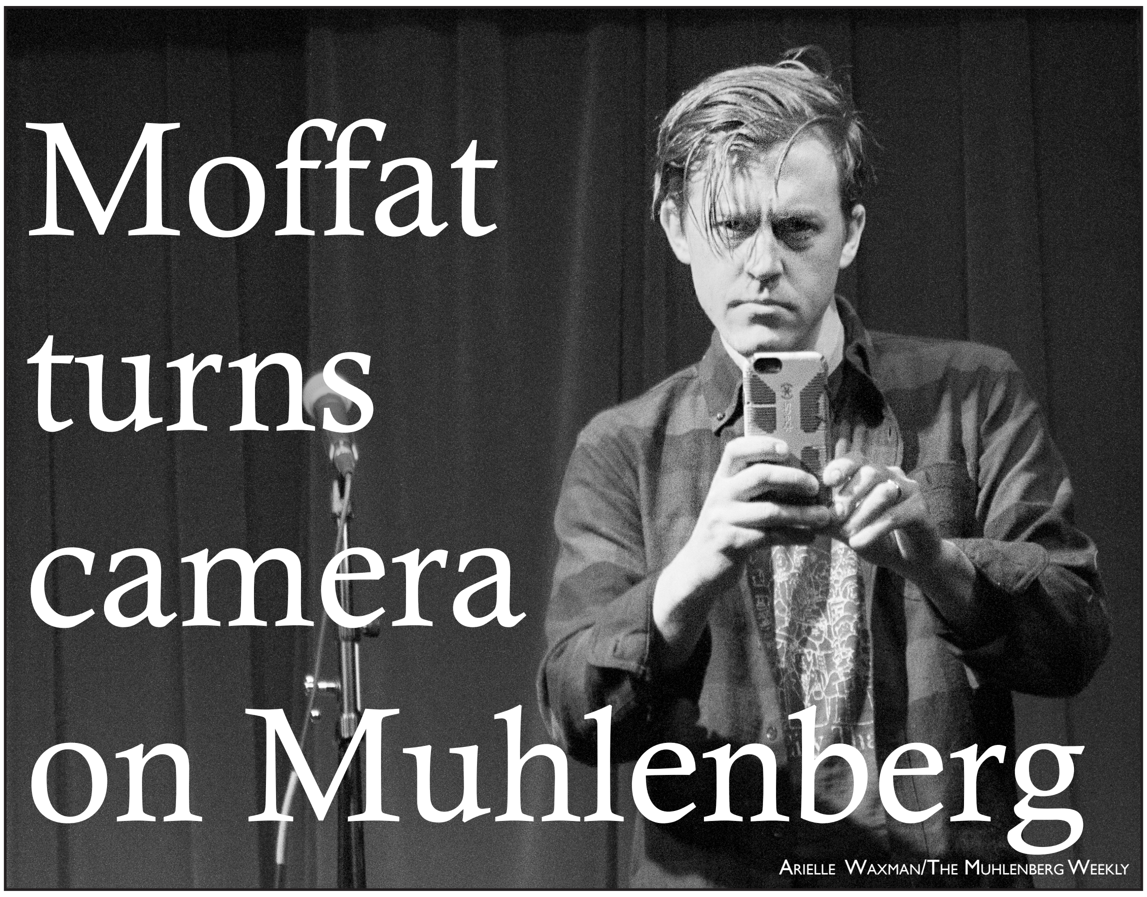
Moffat turns camera on Muhlenberg



ARIELLE WAXMAN/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

SNL star Alex Moffat performed at 'Berg Sunday night, though his set's small town focus might have held back his big city hits.
Read more on page 9.

Working towards a more inclusive campus

'Berg's Bias and Resource Education Team hosts Jane Sanchez Swain for a diversity and inclusivity workshop

BY MELISSA REPH
NEWS EDITOR

On Friday Nov. 10, Muhlenberg hosted Jane Sanchez Swain of Princeton's Pace Center for Civic Engagement for a workshop on diversity and inclusivity on campus. With nearly 100 people in attendance, Sanchez Swain spoke to a mix of students, faculty and staff.

The workshop began with a speech from Dean Gulati welcoming everyone and thanking them for their commitment to working towards a more inclusive campus. She also thanked the College's Bias and Resource Education Team (BRET) for putting together the event before turning over the mic to Sanchez Swain.

Sanchez Swain opened by saying, "Social justice and bias intervention is everyone's job," before going into a brief overview of what the workshop would cover.

Introducing herself as a first generation "person" with Peruvian parents, Sanchez Swain explained that she never experienced being different until she reached college. It was an eye opening experience because, as she describes, the community in New Jersey where she grew up was so "homogenous."

The college experience is what allowed her to start focusing on social justice, diversity and inclusivity and teaching others about it. "My work at Princeton with the Center for Civic Engagement is really just a vehicle," Sanchez Swain explained.

> **"Inclusion; it's not about everyone being the same. It's not about finding that ten point list that's the same."**

Following Sanchez Swain's introduction everyone broke off into small groups for an activity highlighting differences and similarities. It demonstrated that while it is very easy to find something unique about oneself, it can be extremely difficult sometimes to find more than the most simplistic commonality.

"Inclusion; it's not about everyone being the same. It's not about finding that ten point list that's the same," Sanchez Swain said after the activity. She explained that inclusion is about accepting people for their differences.

The next activity consisted of a "pair and share" on "What does it mean to be an inclusive community?" During this attendants turned to a partner to talk about what they believed made a good inclusive campus and what hurt one. Sanchez Swain then invited everyone to share what they discussed.

One student mentioned that "maintaining diversity" is what would help make campus more inclusive, explaining that currently, people of color are being recruited and then not allowed to feel comfortable or prosper on campus.

As something that prevents inclusivity, a student said that their group talked about "dishonest self-reflection of 'we're

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Painkiller Crisis

Library hosts interdisciplinary panel on opioid epidemic

BY GREGORY KANTOR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Thursday, Nov. 9, over 150 students and community members gathered for an interdisciplinary presentation about America's opioid epidemic from four professors.

The panelists were Professor Chrysan Cronin, Director of Public Health, Dr. Jeremy Teissere, Professor and Director of the Neuroscience Department, Dr. Kate Richmond, Associate Professor of Psychology and Rachel Hamelers, Science Librarian.

Cronin led off with a presentation about the epidemic in its broadest sense.

Opioids are a class of drugs that are used to reduce pain which can also produce a euphoric experience for the user that extends beyond the pain relief. These drugs are often prescribed legally, like oxycodone, codeine, morphine and fentanyl, for example.

Concerns arise with respect to either illicit consumption, manufacturing and sales (in the case of fentanyl) or when it is rendered into a recreational drug like heroin; in 2016, over 11 million Americans misused prescription opioids and there were approximately 64,000 overdose deaths involving opioids.

But the magnitude of America's opioid crisis is not limited to the addict, Cronin noted, and that is where public health figures into the puzzle.

"In public health, we look past the addict. We think about the families and communities because it places a strain on a variety of government and non-government organizations," said Cronin. Some of those organizations include healthcare systems, social services, police departments, prisons and even the economy — the annual impact of the epidemic is $78.5 billion, Cronin added.

Some of the current public health interventions include advocating for methadone treatment program and safe injection sites, as well as new prescribing guidelines and labeling require-

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Editorial

On Politics and Professionalism

What The Weekly would like to see in the new SGA

On Tuesday, Muhlenberg students elected Karlee Makely as the next SGA president.

Last week, The Weekly met with three of the presidential candidates for a question and answer session. We asked the candidates about key issues they would need to address, as well as their general vision for the school.

As a staff, we were impressed with the professionalism and serious solutions offered to our questions in last week's interviews. In a process that is generally described as a popularity contest, it was refreshing to see an appropriate level of thought dedicated to this part of the elections.

For last year's election, SGA increased the campaigning period from one week to two and held a 'meet and greet' session prior to the election. We praised the new efforts, but concluded that they still left interested students with an insufficient amount of information or time to make an educated decision. It was our hope that SGA would continue on a path towards transparency throughout their election processes.

Unfortunately, this was not the case.

There was no 'meet and greet' this semester and the personal statements were emailed to the student body the night before, leaving little opportunity for students to actually educate themselves about the candidates. Moreover, one presidential candidate's statement was a ten-word sentence apparently repeated to look like the album cover of "The Life of Pablo," a Kanye West album; another statement was an emoji-filled riddle.

Of course, we recognize that very few students on campus actually read these statements and so an attention-grabbing entry may attract name recognition if the student actually votes. But that's not the point — the startling lack of professionalism given towards what should be a serious election is.

And yet, with respect to the representative component of the election, no amount of campaigning or humorous statements would have mattered — there are 22 representative seats and only 20 students who were actually on the ballot. They will all serve on the General Assembly by virtue of running unopposed, and SGA will then need to fill the empty seats at a special meeting in January.

So if Tuesday's election was — at least in some respects — meaningless, why use our editorial to address it? Because local politics matter, and it's impossible to get more local at Muhlenberg than SGA.

If SGA truly wants, as all presidential candidates who we spoke with indicated, to become more than just a bank, the aforementioned lack of professionalism needs to be addressed; students may come to utilize SGA's other spheres of influence if they trust that the request will be addressed appropriately.

Still, Muhlenberg's student body is not innocent either. When constituents don't care about their government or fail to exercise their right to vote, serious concerns can go unaddressed and a supposedly representative body serves only the interests of the elected.

But our call-to-action appears to be a catch-22: we've tasked SGA representatives with improving professionalism and transparency for the potential reward of the student engagement they seek while also critiquing students for not engaging with SGA in any serious manner. So how do we resolve this?

Just as local politics matters, so does local media. Regardless of what actions SGA decides to take in the coming term, we'll continue to push for transparency and to support student engagement opportunities.

After all, for an organization that controls thousands of dollars of student money, ensuring a responsive and successful SGA is something we should all be able to support.

From the Editorial Board of
The Muhlenberg Weekly

The silver lining of coming back from injuries

Reflecting on Shalane Flanagan's monumental NYC marathon victory

By Gabrielle Horndop
Contributing Writer

There's a lot that sucks about running.

Especially for women, injuries, eating disorders and negative body image are sadly an inescapable part of the sport. So when something big comes along, there is a sort of communal celebration that radiates throughout the female running community.

The most recent 'something big' was the New York City Marathon win by Shalane Flanagan. Not projected to finish first, she took onlookers — and herself — by surprise. Being the first American woman to win the marathon since Miki Gormon in 1977, articles of her success have been flooding the media since Sunday. What is so spectacular about this win however, is not just the impact that it has had on Shalane's life, but the immense effect she had on female athletes, and the stellar example she has set.

Beginning her journey with a back fracture that took her out for 10 weeks, there was question of whether or not she would even be competing this year. When she was finally able to begin training again, Flanagan was forced to take a much different approach than she ever had before.

What she learned, however, was that her previous health had allowed her to overtrain, and by training smarter, not harder, she was feeling fresher and more ready to race than in the past. Obviously, it worked out, garnering Flanagan a monumental victory against the top competition in the sport.

Not only has Flanagan proved her abilities as a runner, but she along with co-author Elyse Kopecky wrote "Run Fast. Eat Slow." which focuses on the effect that proper nutrition has on performance. She was quoted in a FloTrack article saying, "We hope to convince female readers that by getting in the kitchen and cooking for themselves, they will help prevent bone loss, infertility, weight issues, eating disorders and a lifetime of issues related to poor nutrition."

This recognition of proper nutrition and the mistruths concerning overtraining by such a prevalent athlete causes a serious and much needed stir. She is a living, breathing, succeeding example of what every female athlete hopes to be, and has achieved success while remaining conscious and respectful of her body; something that specifically many female collegiate athletes neglect to do.

Injury and recovering from injury is an incredibly relatable subject. Not only has Flanagan set the example of the benefits of taking the proper time to recover and coming back slowly, but she also proves that injury is not a death sentence. Flanagan is a testament that more is not always better and that at the end of the day, you first and foremost need to take care of your health. You will recover and potentially even come out a better athlete from it.

So yes, running sucks sometimes. But because we all hurt together, when someone has a fantastic win, it makes it all the more sweet. Congrats Shalane, and thanks for sharing your victory.

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Trump’s popularity and reflections on recent elections

By Jordan Zucker
Contributing Writer

It’s been almost 10 months since Donald Trump was sworn into office as the 45th President of the United States, and he is, by historical standards, the least popular president since Gerald Ford. Aside from Ford who was sworn in after Richard Nixon’s resignation in 1974, Trump has attained the highest average disapproval rating in the history of public polling.

While he has yet to serve a full year in office, there are already political ramifications for his unpopularity. Recently, in our state of Pennsylvania, local and state elections were held to fill the following positions: one State Supreme Court seat, two Commonwealth Court seats and four Superior Court seats. While Republican Sallie Mundy took the open State Supreme Court seat, and Democrats only took one of the Commonwealth Court seats, Democrats won three out of the four Superior Court seats. In addition to these favorable results, Democrats won landslide victories in county level races in Bucks, Delaware and Northampton counties. It was reported by the Morning Call that Democrats outperformed their expectations at the local level, but a recent poll conducted by ABC 27 News expressed that just 35% of Pennsylvania residents support Democrat Governor Tom Wolf. Pennsylvania went red in the 2016 presidential election, and its 2018 Senatorial & Gubernatorial elections are being watched closely by political analysts.

Let’s take a look at other elections which were held last week.

Last Tuesday, elections were held in New Jersey, Virginia and Georgia, to determine a variety of positions within each state government. In New Jersey, Democrat Phil Murphy was elected to become governor in a state which was previously led by Republican Chris Christie. In addition to the defeat of Republican Kim Guadagno, New Jersey Democrats gained control of both chambers of the state legislature. In Virginia, Republican Ed Gillespie was defeated by Democrat Ralph Northam who won by nine percentage points, and according to the Wall Street Journal, was, “the largest victory margin for a Virginia Democratic gubernatorial candidate since 1985.” In Georgia, Democratic candidates won, “three state legislative special elections, including two in districts that were considered safely GOP. That (loss) cost Republicans their majority in the state senate.” As the Wall Street Journal notes, “There is historical precedent for the Virginia and New Jersey gubernatorial races ... in 1994, 2006, and 2010 — the last three times control of the House changed parties—the midterm result was foretold by the party that won the virginia and New Jersey gubernatorial races the year before.”

As someone who was excited to see what the Trump administration could accomplish in an election which saw the rejection of mainstream political candidates, I have been unsatisfied with his presidency thus far. His Republican majority government, so far, has failed to make any significant changes to our healthcare system and his executive orders on travel bans were soundly shut down by multiple state supreme courts. He has shown no ability to rally Republicans around his agenda, and the new tax plan unveiled by House Republicans received a lukewarm reaction from the public at best. 538.com, a website which uses statistical analysis to predict political results, projects that Democrats are winning the race for the Senate at large in 2018, leading by eight percentage points.

While I was not surprised by Democratic victories in New Jersey and Virginia, I am surprised that Republicans are not scrambling to unite the party in the face of unprecedented competition. I consider myself a “flexible response voter,” which means I don’t vote based on party line, but who I think would do the best job in Washington.

In the 2018 elections, I fully expect Democrats to make large gains in Congress simply because Republicans aren’t getting anything done and accomplishing their campaign goals. If this year of the Trump presidency is any insight into how the next three will be handled by Republicans, you can count on me voting for several Democrats in most upcoming elections. I, along with many Americans, am troubled and disappointed by the incompetence and lack of bipartisanship in Washington.

Now, more than ever, we need to be united as a nation in the post recession era — especially since there are many long term issues which are unresolved (Social Security, taxation, infrastructure, etc.) — and I’m not confident that Republicans will have much, if any, of a case to present to voters in 2018.

Stepping up for ourselves

By Alyssa Curtis
Contributing Writer

Take it from me, a girl currently procrastinating a seven page paper by writing this article, when I say that this is one of the most stressful times of the semester. Right before holiday tunes start blaring over the loudspeakers of the local Macy’s preaching that “It’s the most wonderful time of the year,” I think it should be necessary for a hip new artist to create a similarly catchy jingle. One that replaces “wonderful” with “chaotic,” “stressful,” “hectic,” the list could go on but I’ll let this hip new artist take creative liberties. So, as the collective student body starts migrating to the library in hopes that they’ll find sanctuary in the silence of C-Level, the Mental Health StepUp Mules athletic presentation came at the perfect time.

Unlike the two-dimensional sheet of paper the athletes were given last year which attempted (and arguably, failed) to encapsulate every possible mental health scenario in a flimsy piece of printer paper, the program invited a speaker to present for the athletes this year. A lovely and strong 20 year old woman named Kristen from Minding Your Mind spoke to the women athletes. The difference between last year’s impersonal and generalized mental health presentation is almost incomprehensible when compared to this year’s inspiring and uplifting personal presentation. She voluntarily opened up to a room full of women her age which is no doubt a terrifying task. I mean, hey, I can barely raise my hand in class when the topic is as mundane as Shakespeare’s “The Tempest.”

Kristen stated that she had been carrying around a metaphorical invisible backpack full of rocks, each of which represented a weight of an emotion or a problem she had decided to face alone. But then something changed: she decided to let someone help her. At first this seems simple, elementary even, but asking for help or sharing one’s secrets can feel often like an admittance of defeat. In comparison to last year’s presentation which only touched on depression and suicide, her presentation acknowledged the several manifestations of mental illness: depression, suicide, anxiety, eating disorders, self-harm, isolation and the list goes on. This inclusion is vital to a proper mental health presentation; limiting the conversation is then denying individual experiences which don’t fit the ones presented. The topic of mental health is expansive and it would be isolating to restrict the conversation to only certain experiences.

As I was listening to Kristen’s story, I was reminded of a quote from the poem “Goat Hour Gospel (Such Salvage)” by Mark Wagenaar: “each night, across the country, people turn up at hospitals/ unable to speak, for the needle or nail lodged/ in their throats. They’re unable to explain why, but we know—/ that desperate mix of need & panic that can drive us to keep something safe/ for good.” But Kristen begs us to let the rocks fall from our invisible backpack, to unlodge these secrets from our throats.

During her presentation, one that revealed her struggles that seemed incomprehensible to me, she bravely told us that we should not compare the difficulties in our lives to those of others. Even if the rock weighing us down is simply stress from a five minute assignment, that stress is still valid. So, before this hip new artist creates that pre-holiday jam about this stressful time of year, Kristen asks us all to reach out and help ourselves.

It may seem safe to keep everything to ourselves but it can also be self-destructing. Allow yourself to help yourself; as Kristen stated halfway through her presentation, “We have to be our own self-advocates.”

Beef Barbacoa Tacos
crisp taco shells filled with
beef barbacoa, shredded lettuce, diced tomato & cheddar cheese
Muhlenberg
GENERAL'S
QUARTERS
new

Campus Safety Notes

Monday, November 6
Sick Student - 11:37 a.m.
In Moyer Hall, Second Floor, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Found Property - 8:56 p.m.
In the Wood Dining Commons in Seegers Union, there was a report of a found pill bottle. It is unknown to whom the item belongs, and the bottle was placed in a lost and found locker.

Sick Student - 11:06 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, Third Floor, there was a report of a sick student. Student Health Services was notified, and there was no further incident.

Tuesday, November 7
Traffic Accident - 3:34 p.m.
On Fraternity Drive, there was a report of a minor motor vehicle accident causing bumper damage. The individuals exchanged insurance information.

Found Property - 11:35 p.m.
At the Sigma Phi Epsilon house, there was a report to retrieve a found laptop. The owner later claimed the item.

Wednesday, November 8
Parking Violation - 11:00 a.m.
At the Front Drive, there was a report of a vehicle that was illegally parked and not registered. The vehicle was booted by a Campus Safety Officer.

Parking Violation - 11:20 a.m.
At Benfer Drive, there was a report of a vehicle that was illegally parked and not registered. The vehicle was booted by a Campus Safety Officer.

Deliver Message - 7:44 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report to locate a student. The student was located, and there was no further incident.

Thursday, November 9
Found Property - 4:34 a.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a found purse and phone. The items were placed in a lost and found locker, and it is unknown to whom the items belong.

Parking Violation - 9:43 a.m.
In the Prosser Parking Lot, there was a report of a vehicle that was illegally parked and not registered. The vehicle was booted by a Campus Safety Officer.

Disabled Vehicle - 2:00 p.m.
In the Prosser Parking Lot, there was a report to remove a boot from a vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer successfully removed the device.

Theft - 5:30 p.m.
In Gabriel House, there was a report of a theft of money. There are no suspects at this time.

Theft - 5:45 p.m.
In the Life Sports Center, there was a report of a theft of money. There are no suspects at this time.

Sick Student - 6:00 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, First Floor, there was a report of a sick student. The student refused further treatment or transport.

Friday, November 10
Sick Student - 3:33 p.m.
In Walz Hall, Second Floor, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was to be transported to the hospital by a friend.

Theft - 6:15 p.m.
In the Life Sports Center, there was a report of a theft of money. There are no suspects at this time.

Disabled Vehicle - 6:33 p.m.
At the Front Drive, there was a report to jumpstart a vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer successfully started the vehicle.

Saturday, November 11
Point of Information - 10:42 p.m.
In Prosser Annex, there was a report of a found can of beer. The item was disposed of, and there was no further incident.

Sunday, November 12
Disabled Vehicle - 4:04 p.m.
In the Commuter Parking Lot, there was a report to jumpstart a vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer successfully started the vehicle.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 8:18 p.m.
At 2245 Gordon Street, there was a report of a fire alarm that was triggered by cooking. The system was silenced and reset.

FROM **OPIOID EPIDEMIC**
PAGE 1

ments. Cronin concluded by acknowledging that although there are interventions available, “we absolutely need to do a better job of ensuring access.”

Teissere spoke about the science of opioids and their physiological effects on humans.

Some opioids are more fat soluble than others, which allows them to pass through the blood-brain barrier more efficiently, Teissere said. “Some can remain in the body for weeks, which contributes to longer-lasting effects and a detectability similar to cannabis.”

But these longer-lasting effects can also contribute to a condition known as opioid-induced hyperalgesia, which occurs when endorphin signaling in the brain alters the way the individual processes pain. This increased tolerance means that the affected individual feels more pain when an opioid is not actually in their body.

Teissere also explained an interesting relationship between opioid tolerance and the environment in which they are consumed. Essentially, if the individual goes to an identical location to consume opioids, their body “remembers” the act of traveling and physiologically speaking, anticipates consumption. This process heightens the effects of hyperalgesia, leading the individual to seek new methods of consumption — either the location or type of opioid — that their body is less sensitized to.

“These drugs are changing our body’s memory, which may also alter the environment in which the drugs are taken,” said Teissere.

In moving from neuroscience to psychology, Richmond discussed how the biopsychosocial model is affecting the opioid epidemic in the United States.

“The truth is that people around the world have pain. The United States is the only country dealing with a crisis of this magnitude,” said Richmond. “What is it about American culture that has contributed to this epidemic?”

Richmond explained that stressors like economic recessions and subsequent job loss contribute to an individual’s lack of personal identity; this is compounded by the lack of social services available for the disabled, pregnant and elderly when compared with other developed countries.

According to Richmond, our country stigmatizes and places barriers to accessing mental health treatment. This leads individuals to seek pain medication to treat pain, which often is the physical manifestation of stress and could otherwise be addressed with more robust mental health infrastructure, Richmond said.

“I think of this crisis as one of mental health and not of solely addiction,” said Richmond. “But therapy takes time and is expensive. Pills have always been a quick solution.”

Richmond believes that addressing some of the underlying stressors of American culture — war, political issues and economic concerns — lies at the heart of actually addressing the opioid crisis.

The last panelist to present was Hamelers, who addressed scientific literacy and its role in the epidemic.

“The United States is the only country dealing with a crisis of this magnitude.”

Ian Adler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Dr. Jeremy Teissere, Professor and Director of the Neuroscience Department, discussed the affects of opioids on tolerance, memory and pain.

In the 1980s, Hamelers said, prescribing habits in the United States changed dramatically following a ‘letter to the editor’ in the New England Journal of Medicine. The correspondence, which was not a clinical trial or epidemiological study, stated that among 12,000 patients at the Boston University Medical Center receiving narcotics, only four were considered addicted.

In the following decades, the letter has been cited thousands of times by pharmaceutical companies and physicians alike to justify prescribing synthetically produced opioids.

“The pharmaceutical companies were not concerned about the patients or the science, they were concerned about the profits,” said Hamelers.

In April, the Department of Health and Human Services outlined a five-point plan to address the opioid epidemic and two components are related to data collection and research; the Trump Administration has also recently declared the crisis a public health emergency.

Specifically, Hamelers argued that it will be essential to designate federal money to actual prevention and treatment strategies, instead of an anti-opioid ‘just say no’ campaign akin to the 1980s War on Drugs.

“This is probably not the best way to spend our public health dollars,” said Hamelers. “It won’t work.”

Although the panelists come from different academic backgrounds, they agreed that the opioid epidemic has resulted from a variety of intersecting societal and physiological issues. Ultimately, it will be up to the public health and healthcare communities to earnestly address the crisis and help the millions of Americans who desperately need assistance.

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PAGE 1

super inclusive' and that's preventing us from thriving."

In response to this idea of "dishonest self-reflection" Sanchez Swain asked the question: "How do we bring people who aren't always showing up [to events like this] to learn?"

While there was no response to this, nor did Sanchez Swain seem to expect one, it was something to think about.

Moving on from that, Sanchez Swain began a section on bias. "The reality is we all have bias and we all have judgment. It's not inherently bad — bias is learned," Sanchez Swain said.

She then explained that there are three different types of bias — prejudice, stereotype and discrimination — and what they contribute to.

"A combination between prejudice and institutional power that discriminates against specific groups," is what Sanchez Swain defined oppression as, showing that bias plays a large role in it.

Sanchez Swain also brought up a buzzword that often goes with social justice conversations: privilege. "It's not an insult," she stressed, saying that someone has privilege is not an insult as it refers to factors that allow someone power. "Power is not inherently bad, it's what you do with that power."

Another way that people show bias is through microaggressions which Sanchez Swain described as "everyday slights, snubs, insults." Expanding on what she had just described, Sanchez Swain said that these microaggressions communicate negative messages even if it's unintentional. She added that "these messages make an impact on people."

Sanchez Swain then segued into the difference between hate crimes and bias incidents. "Hate crimes are biased in nature and not all bias incidents are hate crimes. The big difference are hate crimes are crimes," Sanchez Swain said.

She then did an activity that included a description of an incident and asked for the group to decide whether it was a bias incident or a hate crime.

Following this activity, Sanchez Swain showed a video on empathy by Brené Brown and then opened up a discussion about what empathy is and means. As for herself, Sanchez Swain said that thinking about empathy makes people think about the phrases they use when they speak.

"A response doesn't necessarily mean a solution," one student said as part of the discussion.

"I don't want you to solve my problem, just listen to me," Sanchez Swain added in response to the student. "[Empathy is about] listening to understand and not listening to respond."

Sanchez Swain ended the workshop with ways to respond to bias incidents, giving everyone a handout with phrases and options of things to do when responding to a bias incident. "I want to highlight this idea of calling people out versus calling people in," Sanchez Swain said. She then explained the difference between the two: 'calling out' shuts something down and causes people to become defensive while 'calling in' is more educational and involves taking people aside to talk with them.

Roadtripping with the Career Center

Trips to New York City, Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia allow students to build connections for the future.

By Sydney Coplin
Contributing Writer

This semester, groups of Muhlenberg students travelled to New York City, Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia for the second annual Career Center road trip series. Each of the trips were divided into two parts: visiting industry sites during the day, and then coming together for a networking reception with local alumni at night.

"These trips are at the heart of what I do, in addition to meeting students and workshops and things like that," said Ryan Smolko, the Associate Director of Student Transition and Engagement. "Kind of the mandate for the new Career Center as we evolved to what we are now is to look at new ways to both get alumni involved, and connect students to industry and alumni."

The road trips are certainly a way to assist students in gaining connections and knowledge from their projected career paths. "You can read about an occupation all day long. It's way different when you're at the site," noted Smolko. "You feel what the place is about, see the landscape, it's a more impactful experience."

The first trip of the semester was to New York City on Sept. 24. Around 70 students attended, and they visited AB Global, Roundabout Theatre Company, Linkedin, The Dr. Oz Show, Ketchum and Publicis.

"The realization that my time here at Muhlenberg can culminate in my dream career was so empowering and got me excited for what is to come," said Amisha Datta '21, who went to the Roundabout Theatre Company site. "At the reception, I gained real world insight into the world of networking. Previously, I thought networking would be boring and very adult. I cannot express how wrong I was!"

While Datta is a freshman who had her first opportunity to go on the trip this semester, some seniors who attended, such as Michael Havkins '18, reflected on the experience from a different perspective.

"If I could give one piece of advice to my freshman year self, it would be to take advantage of all of the opportunities the Career Center provides us with and to not be afraid to speak with such staff to help build a foundation of professionalism early on in my collegiate career," said Havkins, who attended the LinkedIn site.

Another student who reflected on the New York City trip was Mark Gutierrez '18, who visited AB Global. He explained, "Being an accounting and finance major, I was able to meet plenty of alumni working in front-office finance roles in NYC."

Students were not the only people positively impacted from these trips, as alumni had similar reactions. "The really insightful response we got was that alumni felt really appreciated at that reception," acknowledged Emma Hamm, the Assistant Director of Alumni and Parent Engagement, while reflecting on an alumnus response after the Washington D.C. reception.

The Washington D.C trip took place on Oct. 24, with visits to USAID, National Institutes of Health and the Department of Homeland Security.

For the Career Center Road Trip to New York students visited companies such as The Dr. Oz Show, AB Global, LinkedIn, Roundabout Theater and Publicis.

ROUNDABOUT DEMONSTRATES A GROWING INTEREST IN STAGING WORTHY EXPERIMENTAL PLAYS BY EMERGING WRITERS.
TOO HEAVY FOR YOUR POCKET
THE LAST
OR TICKET

Photos courtesy of the Muhlenberg Career Center Facebook

"I went to USAID, and really got an understanding of what it takes to work for a government agency," said Hayley Peterson '18. " The 'Berg alums who work there were great resources and were really candid about how to be successful in their field."

Besides for just Peterson's site, she also really enjoyed the reception: "The reception was intimate and I got to connect with multiple alums with varied backgrounds." Hamm actually had a large role in planning the intimacy of the receptions, and she explained, "At the receptions there's a pretty close 1:1 ratio of alumni to students. This allowed at any point a student to talk to an alum."

The third and final trip was to Philadelphia on Nov. 6. The sites included Vanguard, Ernst & Young and Lincoln Financial.

"The trip as a whole was amazing. It was very informational for me, and I learned that there are many different options for me near my home for work.," explained Michael Bonaddio '20, who visited Vanguard. "After we left I went out and started to do some research on the company to see about the internships they offer."

With the conclusion of this semester's trips, The Career Center is definitely looking ahead to the future. "We are hoping Boston, maybe as our next one. We need some funding to do that, since it would require hotel rooms, and we would probably be more selective," said Hamm. Smolko added on to Hamm's point by saying, "We are also looking at smaller industry-specific ones, like Media and Communication."

Smolko and Hamm also expressed their gratitude for Muhlenberg College President John Williams and Vice President of Career Advancement Rebekkah Brown. As Smolko emphasized, "This wouldn't happen without their support at the end of the day."

Of course, these trips are also about the students, who are encouraged to look out for next year's Career Center trips, and experience what it is like to work in their industry of choice. Hamm ended on an optimistic note, "We want to get the word out to more students."

This Week in Muhlenberg College History: Student representation at faculty meetings

By Karl Schultz
Senior Staff Writer

"This Week in Muhlenberg College History" will bring to light past events, individuals, and forgotten aspects of Muhlenberg history that have been buried within the College's 169 years of existence.

With SGA elections coming to a close, it is important to talk about the importance of student input on campus. Whether in its current form of the Student Government Association or under its previous form of Student Council, a body of student leaders has always been an important catalyst on Muhlenberg's campus. One such event was the lengthy battle of student representation at faculty meetings.

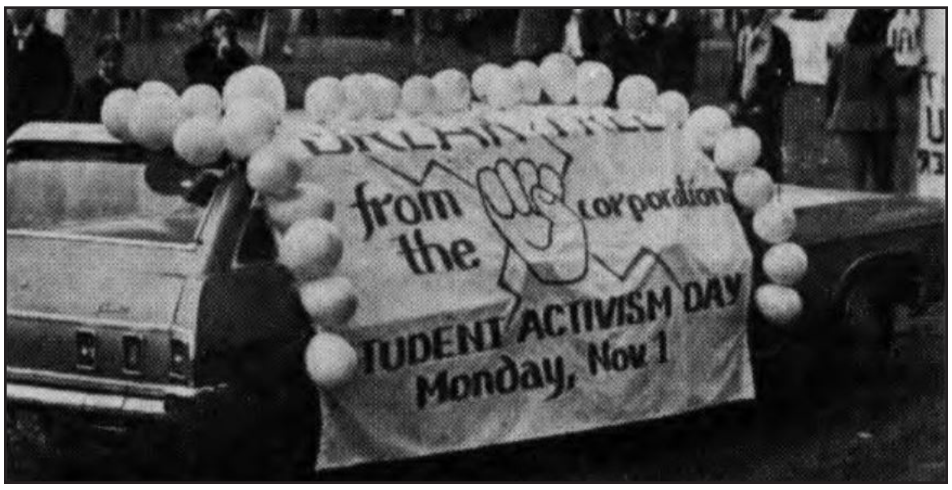
The 1976-77 Student Council, featuring Student Body President Jeff Dobro '77 (center) in a crown (above). A headline from The Weekly (below).

The story began with the October 21, 1976 headline "Activists express displeasure over lack of representation." While planning for Student Activism Day to be hosted on Nov. 1, Student Body President Jeff Dobro '77 said that the sit-in planned for the day would be symbolic of many issues seen by the student council. One of the biggest issues was the inability for students to voice their opinions. The Weekly writes "the basic issue of communication was viewed as, perhaps, the major problem facing the student body, if not the entire college community." They decided to focus this issue on the inability to sit in on faculty meetings. By the end of the meeting, the proposed sit-in was actually widely voted down by "the nearly 100 people present." The College Committee on Student Affairs (CCSA) feared faculty backlash to a sit in so encouraged Dobro and the Council to step down. Dobro, however, scheduled a special meeting with the CCSA the next day. Not only were they interested in student representation in faculty meetings, but the CCSA also considered other requests including a Muhlenberg Theatre Association constitution. The Weekly showed the importance of this meeting, saying, "the CCSA avenue is the only remaining non-militant road open to Berg Students."

Activists express displeasure over lack of representation

In its "Comments" section, the Weekly opened up on the issue and gave their personal opinion on the manner. It reads "the administration has told us time and time again that we should use existing channels to communicate our desire to be heard… This far attempts at accomplishing this have been met with criticism and bitter defeat." The article also goes on to say that in the past, the faculty has "implied" that even if students were granted access to meetings, they wouldn't know "what is good for them academically." After calling the opinions of the faculty "nearsighted," they concluded the article by saying that if the proposal was to fail, it would serve as an example of the faculty's belief that "students can not be trusted."

The following week, the CCSA and the proposed ruling were again in the headlines. After the meeting with the CCSA, Dobro "expressed optimism" on the progress of getting student representation into faculty meetings. When asked what a possible counter argument to their request could be, Dobro replied, "I thought, and thought, and thought… and I couldn't think of one single reason." With the CCSA's official support, the final hurdle was now if the four selected student delegates allowed to attend the next faculty meeting could argue their point effectively enough to allow representation at future meetings. These four students would be the Student Body President, Editor-in-Chief of the Weekly, one Student Council Member, and one student elected through the Student Body. Then College president John Morey declined to comment his opinion on the matter, claiming it was only "a faculty matter, and, as such, the proposal would be handled by them." One member of administration that did comment, Dean of Students Dr. R. Dale LeCount, was optimistic, claiming the ruling "will probably pass the faculty" unless major changes to the proposal were made. As it stood, the proposal called for the four student representatives to have a right to the floor and the right to report to the student body any non-confidential matter discussed. The proposal, however, did not allow the students any right to a vote.



A float from the 1976 homecoming game with the phrase "Breaking from the corporation," in support of Student Activism Day.

The next week, November 4th, saw the triumphant headline "Faculty passes observer proposal." The proposal passed by a vote of 48-38, however it had to be amended before it passed. Instead of the original four student positions proposed to be representatives, the faculty committee instead called for the four students to be "chosen from each of the existing groups of student representatives to faculty committees." These groups consisted of the Academic Policy, Curriculum, Library, and Teacher Education Committees. The reason for the amendment was due to debate over the motivations of the original four representatives. The faculty felt that the representatives would be "politically-oriented" and therefore would "not be the best possible representation" for the student body." As it now stood, the four representatives were to be chosen by a group of nine students, none of which were Student Body President Dobro. Though he was not able to represent the student body this time, Dobro still supported the amendment, "securing student representation in faculty meetings" over any personal wants.

In the Comments article, the Weekly again spoke about the student representation, which they called "acceptable" in its passing form. The Weekly also took their time to thank the faculty "for their interest in giving the proposal a fair chance for survival." The article then went on to debunk some of the supposed faculty concerns after the proposal passed. The article claimed that some faculty members now felt that any discourse would be "dominated by the demands of student masses." In an attempt to offer some clarity, the article stated that "the intention of the proposal is to open up new lines of communication between student and faculty members."

Mirroring our current campus political discourse, the student government elections were also underway. The platforms of eight candidates for both officers and members were published in the paper. Of those eight, all but two mentioned either the specific faculty proposal or a generic need for improved student representation in administrative matters. Though the "platforms" of the current batch of SGA hopefuls are varied, let us hope they all fight for the same change and improvement their predecessors fought for just 41 years ago.

Student activists rally outside of Trumbower Hall awaiting the ruling on student representation at faculty meetings.

Arts & Culture

“More often than we realize people see in us what we don’t see in ourselves” — Misty Copeland

From struggle to success

Through ten pieces and two acts, Moving Stories embodies collaborative communities.

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

The lights are dim in Baker Theatre. Though many performances are showcased here over the course of the semester, this one feels … different. As audience members slowly shuffle into their seats, finally finding the one that was meant for them and settling in, they’re not waiting for the curtain to rise on a set, on a scene ready to begin. They’re waiting for changeable, malleable, moving stories; moments in time preserved by bodies in motion.

As the lights fade away, a voice fades in. There is no beat, no music, no notes except for the cadence of her speech. If you haven’t analyzed the show’s program, you won’t know who she is—yet her words compel the women on stage to thrust shaking hands into the air, to crumple themselves and re-form only to repeat the cycle again. As the woman’s voice makes a passing statement about being First Lady, some audience members gasp, one even whispering, “I was wondering who that was!”

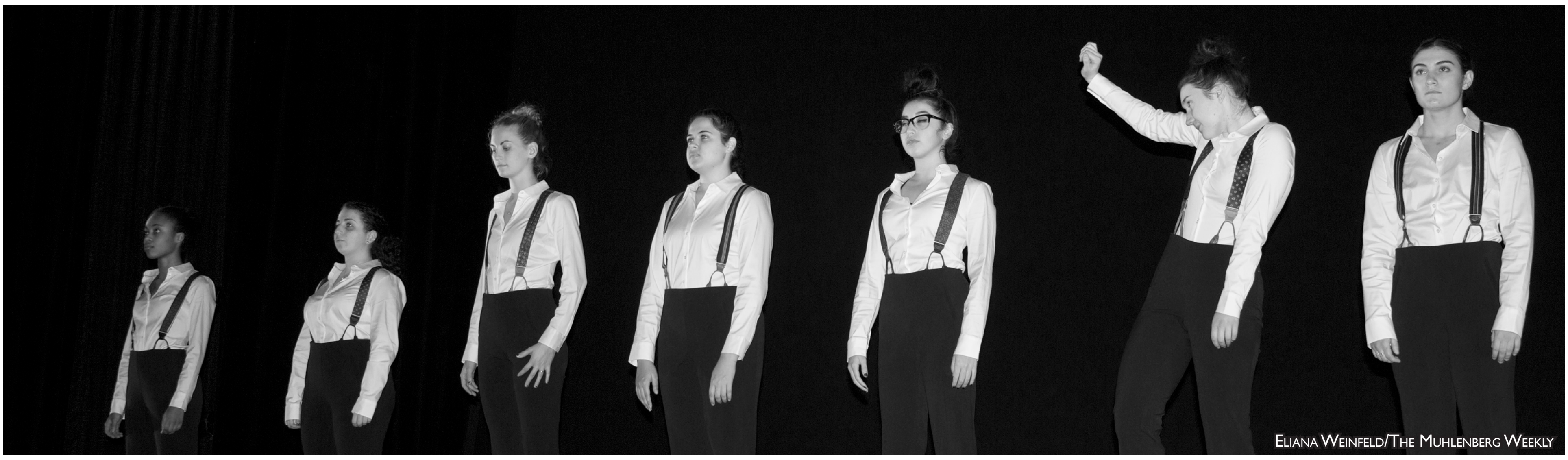
Michelle Obama’s voice continues to invite these women to move, to try and try again as they are knocked down by unseen figures and, ultimately, to stretch out their hands and help the others get back up again. Piano music replaces Obama’s words as the women dance as parts of a whole, lining up and performing certain actions like a wave. When the lights fade away, the audience erupts in applause.

This is Emily Ancona ‘18’s “And Nothing Less,” the first piece in Fall 2017’s iteration of the annual dance mainstage Moving Stories. One of ten breathtaking pieces over the two-act show, Ancona’s work immediately makes the audience aware of a central theme of the night: sisterhood and the stories of women.

“I had been reading a lot of feminist literature over the past summer and I think that gave me the foundation I needed on which to build this piece,” Ancona said. “I got a lot of inspiration from my own female friends and the way communities of women seem to form in support during crises. My dancers were also a huge inspiration to me. I like to work collaboratively, so the dance is not only mine, but theirs as well, and I think the subject of the piece meant as much to them as it did to me.”

The piece itself embodies the passion and togetherness that went into its creation, according to Ancona.

“It has themes of tension and release, partnering work, and stark floor patterns. It explores the idea of women being stuck in a mold and gradually being able to break out of it and form connections with other women,” said Ancona. “This community of women [works] together to explore their freedom and support each other in times of crisis. My dancers all play versions of themselves; they contributed choreography based on experiences they’ve had as women and explored their journeys and their characters in the piece through writing.”


Eliana Weinfeld/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Several other choreographers also utilized this tactic in order to make certain that their dancers were heavily involved in the process of creating the final work. Dancer Jess Afflerbach ‘19 recounts how choreographer Caitlyn Kraemer ‘19 incorporated the individuality and ideas of her dancers into her dreamy, autumnal piece, “Fields Lie Fallow.”

“Having the opportunity to be in a piece and work alongside one of my closest friends was an absolute gift,” Afflerbach said. “Cait is incredibly smart when it comes to choreographing and she is also very understanding of the limitations of every dancers’ body and the way we feel comfortable when we move. The work was centered around specific moments in each of our lives that we wrote about in the very first rehearsal, and being able to dance about the feelings and thoughts I know so well, from the moment in life that I chose, was really fulfilling.”

This sense of collaboration was also vital to the creation of Lauren McGinty ‘18’s piece, “Unmistakable, She.” Like the other choreographers, McGinty was chosen from a group of applicants with experience in the Advanced Dance Composition course after answering questions about her vision for the piece and presenting a dance sample to a panel of faculty members. McGinty knew she wanted to pursue a narrative that included the experiences of the dancers she would soon be partnered with for months of work.

“I was originally inspired by all of the amazing women in my life and how they relate to me in such different ways,” said McGinty. “Because they all embody their womanhood in their own unique way, I wanted to explore my dancers’ womanhood and what it means for them. However, throughout the process, my piece became less about defining or explaining womanhood and evolved into [an] individual celebration of each dancer inspired by their womanhood. From sitting down with my dancers and learning about them on [a] personal level to [seeing] them sharing this information with the audience through movement was such an uplifting experience for me.”

And how uplifting it was for everyone who saw it—though the rest of the pieces in the show embodied more subdued and pensive narratives, McGinty’s work took shape with each dancer clothed in bright pink or purple, their flowy shirts and pants ready to move with any burst of energy. The entire dance seemed to be a celebration. The dancers grinned and laughed and made eye contact before performing certain movements, allowing the audience in on some inside joke that couldn’t help but make us smile too.

If Ancona’s work showcased the struggles and successes of a sisterhood attempting to gain traction, this one was its perfect epilogue: a joyful, triumphant, carefree collective of women who are able to express themselves freely and fully control their destinies. In the piece’s last seconds, a single dancer closes the show with a sassy snap that brings down the lights and turns off the music, causing the audience to laugh along with her. It is this kind of feedback, McGinty insists, that makes dance shows so vital to the world of performance.

“These original works are so important to share with audiences because they offer a closer look at humanity through a purely physical mode of communication which leaves audiences with their own visceral reaction that only dance is capable of creating,” McGinty said. “This visceral reaction is an honest response which can allow audiences to reflect on themselves either directly or indirectly in such a way that they may not even understand is happening in the moment.”

Sitting in Baker, listening to the gasps and whispers of the audience around me as a dancer climbs up an aerial silk, as in Nicollette Amico ‘18’s “Distant Pieces in Dark Places,” or plays rapid-fire mirror games with their partner, as in Marissa Finkelstein ‘18’s “Moments Eclipsed,” I can’t help but conclude that McGinty is right. There is something special about dance, that art form where words speak through pointed or straight toes and arching or contorted limbs.

There is something that taps into our universal ability to understand, to make our own stories from the movements—to connect.

A community bids goodbye to Callista Isabelle

By Olivia Hurtado
Contributing Writer

It was a chilly Sunday evening in November of my freshman year when I first attended a chapel service. As I walked down academic row approaching the chapel, I was nervous to enter into a community where I did not know anyone. I was longing for the sense of community that I had to leave behind at home when I moved away to college. When I entered the chapel, I was in awe. The chapel is one of the most beautiful spaces on campus, with its stained glass windows and impressive architecture. I was intimidated by the long aisle that led to a whole new group of strangers waiting for the service to begin. I mustered up the courage to take my first step down the aisle, and when I did, I was greeted by a chapel community member with the most sincere smile. They asked for my name and introduced me to the rest of the congregation.

Chapel is a community of Protestant Christians that comes together every Sunday at 5 p.m. in Egner Chapel. Each chapel service begins with community members gathering in the middle of the worship space and lighting multiple candles so that the flames come together to create one cohesive light throughout the service. "Chapel services are Protestant Christian services, welcoming to all," explains Callista Isabelle, the College Chaplain. Services consist of prayer, times of reflection, Holy Communion, singing of hymns and Isabelle addressing the congregation with a different message for each evening. Attending chapel has given me, as a Christian student, a welcoming, inclusive and supportive community.

From holding moments of silence in the chapel to meeting people one on one for coffee, Callista has always stepped up when the campus community needed it the most.

Muhlenberg is a Lutheran-affiliated college connected to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) with a campus Chaplain that is traditionally a Lutheran pastor, and there are three bishops from the ELCA that sit on the college's board of trustees. There are other signs of Lutheran tradition around campus, like the red doors that grace most entrances to buildings, a traditional Lutheran symbol of welcome. That welcoming vibe that Muhlenberg fosters can be traced back to its Lutheran roots. "Because we are a Lutheran College we welcome people of any and all faiths," explains Isabelle.

When I first went to chapel services, what drew me in was the warm and welcoming presence of Isabelle. As the College Chaplain, Isabelle has a few different roles on campus; she is an administrator for the college, the pastor for the chapel community on campus and the chaplain for the entire campus community. Isabelle offers a blessing at commencement, sends out the common hour email, supports interfaith engagement and provides messages of support when tragic events takes place. As college chaplain, she lends a hand to students and staff in times of need.

A recent tragedy hit Muhlenberg particularly hard: the death of beloved coach Mike Donnelly. "She immediately reached out to me and was willing to help in any way possible," said Marco Blasco '18, who is on the football team. "We met for coffee one day to talk, and just being able to have someone to listen to me was amazing. She was also there as a pillar of support for my entire team, even for the guys who didn't know her very well at all. From holding moments of silence in the chapel to meeting people one on one for coffee, Callista has always stepped up when the campus community needed it the most. As I mentioned before, after the passing of Coach Donnelly, Callista was there to support not only the football players, but anyone who was affected by his death. This is just one example, but there are countless numbers of times where Callista has selflessly given help to those who need it most," said Blasco.

On Oct. 1, 2017, the Muhlenberg community learned that Isabelle will be leaving the college. Isabelle and her husband are moving to St. Louis, Missouri in December. For students, it's hard to imagine Muhlenberg without her, as she has been the college chaplain since February of 2012. On Nov. 13, 2017, President Williams informed the Muhlenberg community that Pastor John Gorder will be the next interim chaplain.

Isabelle is hopeful that the chapel will continue to provide support and encourages student involvement. "I hope that student leadership is carried on in chapel and students continue to extend a wide welcome," she said.

As a senior reflecting back on four years of chapel service with Isabelle, I know that my time at Muhlenberg would not have been the same without her dedication to this campus.

May the best woman speak: local drag queens take the stage

By Emma Forgione
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, Nov. 9, I had the pleasure of attending the Realitea: Drag Panel hosted by the Muhlenberg Theatre Association and the Office of Multicultural Life. It was quite the treat to hear stories from three talented drag queens right out of Allentown. The conversation was facilitated by Evan Brooks '18 and alum Malcom McClain '17 and touched on everything from the history of drag culture and tensions faced in the drag community to names, personal anecdotes and much more!

The queens we heard from were Elektra Fearce St. James, Georgia Versace Couture and Shanae St. Cartier, each with their own interesting stories and perspectives. The premier questions were about each one getting her start in drag, finding drag families and choosing drag names. Some hilarious stories were exchanged; for example, Georgia had to go through a slew of people arguing about her drag names just to end up with the exact names she started with.

Questions were then asked about transphobia in the drag community as well as issues of fetishization. Shanae, who is the only queen out of the three to identify as trans, shared personal discrimination stories.

Emma Forgione/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Emma Forgione/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Top: Elektra Fearce St. James, Georgia Versace Coture and Shanae St. Cartier answer audience questions. Bottom: Malcom McClain '17 and Evan Brooks '18 factilitate the panel.

She said that on stage it doesn't matter what body parts she has; as long as she has the audience with her, she does her thing. But backstage, there are other queens who would feel uncomfortable with her in the room. All three also spoke of issues of fetishization in their personal lives, with strangers asking violating questions and seeking inappropriate attention.

The queens then got to talking about their performance art: why they perform and how they perform for different audiences. Georgia started speaking on how she changes certain aspects of her performance for different audiences, i.e. performing at the club versus performing at a nursing home.

"All have to do is literally change just a tiny bit of your personality to fit the genre that your audience is formatted for," she said. "You really have to know your audience because that's gonna give you the power to emote your energy to them when you're on stage."

Elektra then spoke to why she loves performing. She said, "It's a place you get to be something else at least for three to six minutes. I'm just gonna channel my energy, my frustrations, my passions, my everything, into my music …"

The queens then got into talking about Stonewall in Allentown, discussing everything from some great stories about finding out it was haunted to recollections of crazy nights at Allentown's favorite club.

The questions were then opened up to the audience, which led to Georgia telling a very eloquent history of how the Stonewall riots started in NYC:

"Any owner that had an establishment within the city [was] pressured and, you know, pretty much forced into paying police officers to let them know when homosexuals would come into the establishment; they would tip off the police, the police would show up, and they would raid it."

"Things would not be very pretty, it's not a very polite raid. People were getting hurt. People were getting killed. Just because they were gay. Okay. It was a drag queen, in New York City, at the Stonewall, that finally said 'Stop it.' She took her shoe off, threw it at the police officer, and that's what started [the] New York Gay Rights Activist March of the 70s. From a drag queen. From Stonewall."

The talk ended with comments about wigs, makeup, buying shoes and other fun details that were inspiring for future drag performers, many of whom were in the audience.

Be sure to attend Muhlenberg Nights at Stonewall to see these amazing performers!

Live from Allentown, it's Sunday night!

By Eitana Friedman-Nathan
Contributing Writer

It's no secret that one of Muhlenberg's largest crowd attractions is the occasional appearance of a rising celebrity. Last year, Muhlenberg was graced with the presence of SNL's Pete Davidson, one of the show's youngest and most promising current cast members. This year, the student body was lucky enough to get another taste of the current SNL cast, with a stand up performance this past Sunday night featuring Alex Moffat.

Moffat commenced his career in comedy in well-known troupes such as The Second City, ImprovOlympic, Annoyance Theatre and Zanies Comedy Club. He joined the cast of SNL in 2016 and has since portrayed Eric Trump and Guy Who Just Bought a Boat. As evident from his roles in SNL, Moffat specializes in impressions. He opened his act on campus with an extended impression of a German alter-ego he's named Max Bremmer. Not only was he able to keep this bit up for a while, he integrated impressions within his impression like Shaquille O'Neal and an overly enthusiastic camp counselors that left the crowd roaring with laughter.

Moffat spoke to Muhlenberg students prior to the event about recent events on campus; he utilized this information with a series of jokes about things such as the school's recent streaker. Moffat did a great job at poking fun at those comic aspects of small school life that students tend to overlook within the Muhlenbubble.

Moffat exhibited natural skills when it comes to captivating a crowd through dialogue that utilized participant interaction. However, it was clear that Moffat had not really prepared for the performance in itself, as he repeated several punchlines throughout his set, especially in reference to the Benfer robbery. While the act itself was promising in that he had various routines such as purposefully bad piano playing and a section entitled "Actors who don't know their lines," Moffat failed to deliver an act that contained many of the more entertaining and clever aspects of his comedy depicted on SNL.

One of the main components of the show over the past two years has been engagement with the current state of the American government and larger American society. While Moffat was able to make many comical comments about the recent drug scandals on Muhlenberg's campus and his delivery definitely proved his competence as a comedian, his tendency to comment on the small town material available on our campus fell short of the larger comic material of which he is capable.

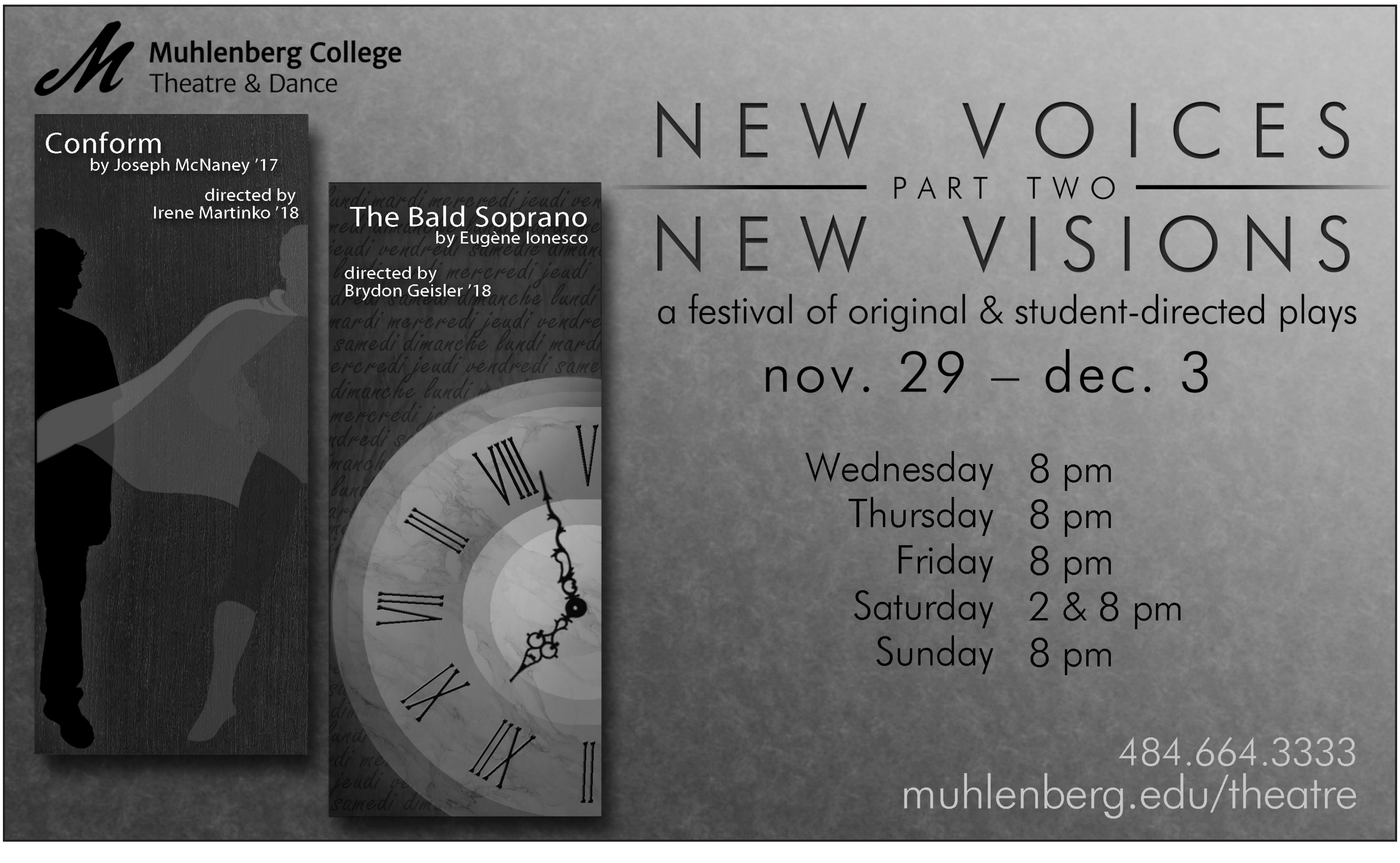
The event itself was organized by Muhlenberg Activities Council's Comedy Chair, Lily Josephs '20. Josephs has been involved with MAC since Spring 2017 and loves to see how the events MAC plans affect and make a difference in the lives of students. Josephs was responsible for the search to bring this year's comedy headliner to campus, a process that involved going through a middle agent who has contacts with various performers. The decision to bring in Alex Moffat was made based on MAC's budget, the list of performers available, the input of the MAC board and several other factors.

Arielle Waxman/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Alex Moffat plays to the Muhlenberg crowd as he performs his set.

Josephs is a fan of SNL and played a big part in bringing in Davidson last year. One of her most exciting moments as a MAC member was receiving a text on Sunday that said, "Hi Lily! It's Alex Moffat!" After spending time hanging out in GQ with Moffat and his wife, Caroline, Josephs saw that he is a sweet, candid and extremely humble guy, who "gets drunk on wine nights with his wife." Moffat also explained how drastic the difference is between the Chicago comedy scene where he began and the world of New York City. Presumably Sunday's crowd was full of aspiring actors from the Muhlenberg Theatre Association who might even aspire to follow in Moffat's footsteps and become a part of something as incredible as SNL.

The Muhlenberg community was fortunate enough to experience another wonderful comedic presence on the stage, as SIT opened for Moffat. SIT, Muhlenberg's on-campus stand-up group, performs several times throughout each semester. Last year, they were also afforded the opportunity to open for Davidson, and they never disappoint. The group's stand-up covers topics ranging from coming out to one's cat to oddly named baby stores in Allentown that hint at purchasing babies! The opportunities offered on campus to experience real comedy are some of the most exciting events students can experience during their years here. It seems incredible that someone who is on stage alongside Taylor Swift one night can appear here in Allentown less than a day later and lend an ear to the oddly humorous events occurring on this small campus. Whether it be the chance for random audience members to be teased by "Hollywood's finest," as Moffat semi-jokingly called himself, or for members of a small liberal-arts school in Pennsylvania to relate to a famous comedian about student loans, these events truly contribute to creating a campus life that supports cultural engagement.


Muhlenberg College
Theatre & Dance

Conform
by Joseph McNaney '17
directed by
Irene Martinko '18

The Bald Soprano
by Eugène Ionesco
directed by
Brydon Geisler '18

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Saturday 2 & 8 pm
Sunday 8 pm

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Freshmen rally for Mules Basketball

By Max Shapiro
Contributing Writer

Muhlenberg's men's basketball team has high hopes going into their upcoming season.

After a 12-12 record last year, the squad is looking to finish above the .500 mark for the first time since the 2013-2014 season, when they finished 16-10, with an 11-7 record in the Centennial Conference. This year the Mules will also welcome a new leader in first-year head coach Kevin Hopkins. The former 6'10 center played college ball at Amherst, a Division III powerhouse, winning a national championship in 2007. After his playing days he then took an assistant coaching position at his alma matter, helping the team to another national championship in 2011.

Since being named head coach of the Mules back in April, he has focused on bringing high energy to the program. "Our goals aren't necessarily based on wins and losses. What we want to make sure we do is improve every day, every week and every month throughout the season. We do that, and we'll be playing our best basketball come February. If we just play our game and focus on what we can control, we'll be fine."

The men will rely on upperclassmen talent and leadership, as any team would, however this year they will also look to benefit from a large and talented freshman class. The team is carrying five freshmen on their roster this year, more than the typical recruiting class. Guard Blake Hlatky received a total of seven letters in basketball and baseball at Brent International School, as well as earning All-Asia Pacific Activities Conference honors. Forward Michael Morreale was a four-year letter winner in basketball at Gill St. Bernard's School, averaged 11.4 points per game and served as team captain for two years. 6-4 guard Spencer Duke was the second-leading scorer in Connecticut as a senior at Berlin High School, averaging nearly 30 points per game and earning all-state honors. He also served as team captain. A fellow freshman guard, William Huang, lettered four years in basketball at Shanghai American School Puxi, earned All-Asia Pacific Activities Conference honors and served as team captain his senior year. Finally, guard Lewis Ford averaged 17 points a game at Science Leadership Academy, served as team captain and earned All-Public League second-team honors. With several of the freshmen competing for both starting roles as well as significant minutes, the team will look for a good amount of production from the newcomers. "The biggest thing with freshmen is consistency. Making the jump from the high school to college level is not easy, so when you have guys giving you consistent production as freshmen it is always great," Coach Hopkins said.

This weekend will be a great event both on and off the court, and we're really excited to play in front of our home fans.

The team will dive right into an exciting part of their schedule to start the season. Their season will tip off on Wednesday, Nov. 15 when they travel to Bethlehem to take on perennial rival Moravian. Following the opener, the Mules will prepare to host the annual Scotty Wood Weekend Tournament. "We're really excited to have alumni and family on campus. This weekend will be a great event both on and off the court, and we're really excited to play in front of our home fans and connect with the entire Muhlenberg basketball community," Hopkins said.

The home opener, and the boys' first game of the tournament will be against State University of New York New Paltz, in Memorial Hall on Saturday at 8 p.m. "We are definitely excited to get the season going. We've been working really hard every day for our new coaches, and we're ready to go out in front of our home crowd and show everybody what we've got and what we've been working on," captain forward JeanLee Baez said.

It ain't over 'til it's over

By Alex Horowitz
Sports Editor

This weekend, the Muhlenberg football team will close out its 2017 season with a bowl game versus Carnegie Mellon University. The Mules, who have played Carnegie Mellon in football three times previously, will be playing at the University of Delaware, in Newark, Del. The team qualifies for an East Coast Athletic Conference Bowl game following a 7-3 campaign.

Muhlenberg has not played a football game at Delaware Stadium in over 60 years — last done in 1953 — and playing in a Division I stadium is an exciting opportunity for this group of Mules.

"This certainly adds to the excitement of the opportunity for the team. Thankfully we get to play in their great stadium but we don't have to play the Blue Hens. We just need to make sure the unique venue does not become a distraction," said Corey Goff, Acting Head Coach and Athletic Director.

"The last time I saw a game at Delaware their field was 120 yards by 53 yards just like ours. Overall the team is very excited about the opportunity to go out and play one more game for a championship. This year's senior class has a chance to tie the school record for wins in a four-year-span in our storied program's history," added Goff.

Unlike a regular season game, this ECAC Bowl Game matches the Mules against an unfamiliar opponent. This means that extra work must be put in before the game, in a shorter amount of time.

"The greatest difference is that we are not familiar with our opponent. As a coaching staff, we spend a great deal of time each year in the offseason studying film and personnel of the best teams in our conference so we can be prepared schematically for those contests. We know our regular season opponents very well because we compete against them every year and we watch film and follow their teams all season long. The last time a Muhlenberg football team prepared for Carnegie Mellon was 1997," said Goff.

"Adding to this challenge is the fact that in a normal week we would begin preparing for the following week's opponent much sooner than we have been able to this week since we just found out our opponent today. Our coaches are working frantically now to break down video and prepare for our first meeting with the team at 7 a.m. tomorrow. The compressed schedule makes preparation a bit more chaotic for the coaches," Goff noted.

But despite the unique nature of this matchup, the goal on the field for all 60 minutes will be the same as always.

"Find a way to win. One more victory as an exclamation point for the Mike Donnelly era of Muhlenberg Football is the only goal," said Goff.

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from **Seniors**
page 12

tain includes leading a program which has achieved excellence throughout every player's time on Muhlenberg's campus. The role Rohn mentions, of being a captain, is no easy or ordinary task. "The best leaders are those people whom others instinctively want to follow and listen to. You earn that by your actions and your character, and that starts long before the day you are named a team captain," began Rohn. "Giving the name of captain does not make someone a leader."

However, the seniors themselves do have an idea of how they intend on being effective captains. "We want to be examples on the court, work hard and give it all we have" said Manning. Vallely mentioned a positive attitude is also essential throughout the grind of a college athletics season. "I think we all just aim to be there for everyone on our team and try to always bring a positive attitude."

Coach Rohn can already see that experience and leadership rubbing off on the rest of the squad. "Our team has great respect for each of them [the seniors] and wants to play this season for them, to send them out on top." He continued to add that the younger members of the Women's Basketball team shouldn't confine their respect for this year's senior class to the walls of Memorial Hall. "I'm most proud of the kind of people and students they are. Each of them has made their mark at the College in the classroom, and in outside interests and activities," he said. "Despite their accomplishments, they are always humble and hard working. They have great work ethics, and always want to improve from where they currently are. You couldn't ask for better representatives of Muhlenberg College."

On the court, the Life Sports Center will house the annual Scotty Wood Tournament. The exciting, fast-paced tournament which marks the beginning of the season for both the men's and women's basketball programs will showcase how the team as a whole comes out to play this year. Plotke thinks that this is "the most intense preseason in my four years here." She added, "It just shows how committed we are to be playing at a high level of basketball … We are playing a much more intense, in-your-face style of defense this season, and in turn I think that intensity is contributing to better execution on the offensive end."

Manning had similar thoughts as Plotke adding the underclassmen are "stepping up and catching on really quickly."

As usual, the goals remain the same year in and year out for a program which has earned the national attention they have received of late. "Our goals this season are to go further within the NCAA tournament [than last year]. We really want that conference championship though," said Vallely. Plotke thinks that the fans of the Women's Basketball program may be watching this team play long after the the regular season ends as well. "I don't think there is a limit to how far this team can go."

Muhlenberg
Muhlenberg
Muhlenberg
Muhlenberg

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

The women's basketball team keeps their tradition of naming all of their seniors captains.

Without a doubt, the Mules are by no means satisfied by their current success. It would be easy for this team to leave off with their already remarkable achievements, but there's no fun in quitting while ahead. Rohn implemented the mentality of finishing the careers of these four young women the way they started, with wins. "Our team motto on our lifting shirts is '444', meaning four championships, for the four seniors, in four years." That would make quite a commencement for a group of student athletes. "There is no question that our team, and the College as whole, will miss these four seniors when they are gone."

FROM **ROSENTHAL**
PAGE 12

utes played as a goalie. She was again second in the Centennial Conference and improved to 14th in Division III in goals-against average. She was vital in helping the Mules set a school record of 11 shutouts with her unscored-upon streak of 264 minutes, or roughly four games.

Then, when Muhlenberg made it to the Eastern College Athletic Conference Tournament, Rosenthal allowed only one goal in 210 minutes through three games.

Though, she hesitates to take credit for the Mules' success.

"The shutout records and goals against average was really a reflection of our defensive unit as a whole. I was super fortunate to have in the back with me Claudia Theriault '17, who was named all-region three years in a row, and also Alyssa Scott '18, first team all CC. During practice my entire team would challenge me by never going easy or slowing down — helping me get ready for game time. Coach Eddinger is so supportive and I'm so appreciative to have a coach that I can go to about anything — field hockey related or not."

Rosenthal continued, "I was extremely lucky to have Bridgette Street to work with me for three out of my four years here, and I really benefited from the extensive time spent at practice with her. After not playing a lot, we really had to work on my confidence as the leader in the back field. Goalkeeper is such a mental position that the confidence has to really be there. It's tough going into every game knowing that if I make one mistake it'll light up on the scoreboard, but going into games with confidence in myself and in my defensive unit was so important."

After years of working and learning, Rosenthal was finally rewarded.

On Saturday, Nov. 18, Rosenthal will be at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky.

She will suit up one last time for the 2017 Victory Sports Tours/National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division III Senior Game. The first goalie in program history named to the All Centennial Conference team more than once, Rosenthal follows in the footsteps of six Muhlenberg players selected to the Division III all-star game in the last six years — including her predecessor Sierra Lenker.

"It's really an honor to be chose to the DIII Senior Game. I actually got a concussion towards the end of the season this year, so I was unsure that I'd ever have a chance to wear my Muhlenberg jersey again. When Coach told me that I had been selected, it was even better to know that I'd have one more chance to play the game I love."

A selection to the all-star game is a fitting end for Rosenthal's record-setting career. Because, like she said, it's not how you start but how you finish.

Both photos courtsey of Muhlenberg Athletics

Emma Rosenthal '18 scans the field as Scranton prepares to take a shot on goal.

The road to Alabama: filling in the gaps

Track and field aims for NCAA national championships

By Jordy Bonvini
Contributing Writer

After a successful winter track season last year, the Men's Indoor Track and Field team come back for another year with strong potential. In 2016, the Muhlenberg men's distance medley relay squad consisted of graduate Jaryd Flank '17, Anthony Calantoni '18, Mike Bessette '19 and Corey Mullins '19. Last year the team earned a spot in the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships. They became the third relay team to receive All-American honors in school's history. As a year has passed and the team has lost Flank they look to reorganize and replace the three time all-American runner in the upcoming 2017 season.

This year, the goal is to compete in Alabama, the site of the NCAA National Championship meet. While preparing for the start of this season, these three athletes are looking to train and focus on building their endurance from the cross country season and translating it into a successful winter track season: Bessette shed some light on the idea of prepping for the track season, "In terms of training and planning, a lot of the focus has been building strength from cross country and utilizing that strength on the track. Most of us start practicing in August and go straight until May so there is a lot of focus on staying healthy while getting stronger at the same time. We plan on having some athletes move around to different events to see if they can contribute to different areas and fill in some of the holes from the graduating seniors."

Mullins explains how they are going to work around the loss of Flank and how they plan on replacing such a talented runner: "We've talked quite a bit about how to make the DMR work as another great team to qualify for nationals. Anthony and I will most likely move up one distance [Calatoni] to 1200 and I will take the 1600. Otherwise, we're still looking at finding someone new for the 800, while Bessette also has some good competition this year for the 400 spot. It's still a little while way, but it's never too early to start planning." In order to get a team as fast as last year, they're going to move around their versatile runners to a longer distance while trying to fill in the last spot with a returning athlete, or even a incoming freshmen who has potential to be effective in the 400 or 800 leg.

Photo Courtsey of Muhlenberg Athletics

The 2016-17 distance medley relay reached All-American status, but after graduating Jaryd Flank '17 the team searches for a fourth runner for their upcoming season.

Mullins explains the best advice he's ever received and why it has helped create him and his teammates to become such a success story; "you simply need to love what you're doing, and appreciate every practice and race. Every teammate counts, even if you might not always score at meets. On a smaller team this goes a long way for everyone to be healthy and working hard; and we know that everyone is doing it for the love of the sport. It creates a bond with the team that I would say I didn't have in high school." These bonds Mullins and the rest of his teammates have built translates into the success they uphold throughout the season. They're able to work together on and off the track in order to build the chemistry that transforms them to a great relay squad. Ultimately, this season the team plans on taking this chemistry to nationals, in hopes to become All-Americans again.

The Muhlenberg Weekly
SPORTS
Thursday, November 16, 2017

Goin' Rosenth-all the way

Senior field hockey goalie selected for DIII All-Star Game

Photo Courtsey of Muhlenberg Athletics

Emma Rosenthal '18 dives to her right to make a stellar save. Highlights such as this have earned her a roster spot in the DIII All-Star Game.

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

The seven-by-twelve-foot structure comprised of a heavy aluminum crossbar and uprights appears small situated on the goal line of Muhlenberg College's Frank Marino Field in Scotty Wood Stadium. It's relative to the sport though, with players attempting to send a ball three inches in diameter into the backboard or netting. Like football, the field hockey players often have to run large lengths of the field just to make it within scoring distance.

But unlike football, there's always someone between them and a goal.

At Muhlenberg, her name is Emma Rosenthal '18.

Rosenthal's name may sit at the bottom of Muhlenberg's field hockey roster, mainly because of her choice of the number 68, but she is certainly not last on on the statistics sheet. The captain and three-year starter has been head coach Megan Eddinger's go-to goaltender since Sierra Lenker '14 graduated. She's spent the past three seasons breaking records and achieving personal bests, but, as Rosenthal admits, it wasn't always that way.

"I was actually a backup goalie all throughout high school too, so going from being the reserve goalie pretty much my whole life to being a three-year starter is a pretty great feeling. I was really able to show myself that if I worked hard I could really achieve my goals and prove that it's not how you start, but how you finish."

Not about the start is right, as getting to where she is now was not always the easiest path.

Last season, Rosenthal surpassed goaltenders before her to set school records for games played, games started and minutes played as a goalie.

Beginning in third grade with a community field hockey league, Rosenthal quickly fell in love with the game. But it was at the next stage of her "career" that she found out she was a solid netminder.

"When I started middle school and had to try out for the team, there were a ton of girls trying out. I knew that I wouldn't be able to make it, so I tried out as a goalie. I had played goalie for lacrosse, so I figured I'd give it a try and ended up really loving it. After becoming a goalie, field hockey became the first sport that I was passionate enough about to actually be excited to go to practice."

That passion continued through high school into college. When she graduated from Central Bucks High School East and moved to Muhlenberg — and in turn graduated from reserve goalie to starter — there was no stopping Rosenthal's journey into the record books.

Rosenthal went from playing in just two games during her freshman season to being second in the Centennial Conference and 19th in all of Division III in goals-against average, allowing one goal or fewer in 11 of 15 starts and recording five saves in 1-0 shutouts of Johns Hopkins and Montclair State.

But her breakout season in her first year as a starter was only the beginning.

Last season, Rosenthal surpassed goaltenders before her to set school records for games played, games started and min-

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Photo Courtsey of Muhlenberg Athletics

Seniors look for a four-peat

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

The four seniors that will run up and down Memorial Hall's wooden floor as part of the women's basketball team have quite a bit in common: they all appear somewhere in the college's women's basketball record book. They have all earned a Centennial Conference honor in their career. Oh yeah, and one more commonality among this year's graduating class of seniors: these four young women know how to win.

As usual, the Muhlenberg women's basketball program has named all of its seniors captains for the upcoming season. This year's captains feature Brandi Vallely '18, Christina Manning '18, Rachel Plotke '18 and Chelsea Gary '18.

Head Coach Ron Rohn admits thinking about what makes this senior class special was no difficult task. "This group of seniors is very special because they have all played important roles on the court as well as in the locker room," said Rohn. The legacy this group has the chance to leave has the potential to be record breaking as well. "They [the seniors] have a chance to win four championships in four years, which nobody at Muhlenberg or in the league has ever done," Rohn added.

Naming all the squad's seniors as captains is a tradition Rohn has upheld "for the past ten years or so." Vallely remembers back to her freshman year when the team had seven seniors, and therefore seven captains.

"Each senior brings a different and unique view and perspective to the team through their previous three years of experience," said Rohn. "I believe that if you have been a part of our program going into your fourth year, that you are prepared to step forward to lead the team." Vallely, a two-time Centennial Conference first team guard, agreed with her coach. She acknowledged the experiences of this year's graduating class will help them lead a team seeking more record breaking success. "All four of us have been through a lot together on and off the court, so I think it's that connection that helps us become good captains."

The road to senior year may have been filled with many wins, but none of the women came into the program with their starting role handed to them on a silver platter. The women's sophomore year is when the four of them flourished into the dominant team they have become today. "They [the seniors] paid their dues as practice players as freshmen, not seeing much playing time," explained Rohn. "They worked their way up the ladder into the roles they hold today," explained Rohn.

The job description of cap-

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Men's and Women's Basketball
Scotty Wood Tournament
Fri. Nov. 17 at 6:00 and 8:00 pm
Memorial Hall

Football
M VS
Sat. Nov. 18 at 11:00 am
Newark, DE

Wrestling
Scotty Wood Duals
Sat. Nov. 18 at 9:00 am
Deitrich Field House

Men's and Women's Basketball
Scotty Wood Tournament
Sat. Nov. 18 at 6:00 and 8:00 pm
Memorial Hall

Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field
Lehigh Season Opener
Fri. Dec. 1 at 5:30 pm
Bethlehem, PA

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The Muhlenberg Weekly

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Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

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New Visions/
New Voices
Photo courtesy of Ken Ek

Mainstage productions "Conform" and "The Bald Soprano" bring into question the very essence of who we are. Read more on page 7.

One monumental cluster

How two classes brought to life a new history – with the help of 3D printing

By Chloe Gravereaux
Managing Editor

Students dedicated Civil War monuments in Ettinger 212 on Thursday, Nov. 30, as part of their final project in a cluster course on the time period.

Each group of four or five students stood at the head of the class reading off their dedication speech, explaining the research and symbolism behind each of their projects while the plastic miniature of their monument sat on a velvet podium next to them.

The first group's monument depicted two horses facing each other atop a ramp and was dedicated to the many horses' lives lost during the Civil War. The second group memorialized the Battle of Shiloh and in particular an area called the "Hornets Nest" for the swarms of bullets buzzing by soldiers' ears. They did this with a sword through a hornet's hive and a canon symbolizing the artillery barrage. The third group honored women's role in the Sanitary Commission — which delivered food, clothes and medicine to soldiers — with a blank tombstone and angel wings. The final group's monument was a scroll with Clara Barton's initials on it, which served as a reminder of her role as General Correspondent for the Friends of Paroled Prisoners.

At the conclusion of their speech, each group sliced a ribbon with a comically oversized pair of scissors.

The next day, the monuments were moved to a display case in the library, with cards reiterating points form the dedication speeches, where they remain today.

The cluster, officially titled "America on the Cusp of Crisis: The Literature and History of a Nation in Turmoil," is taught by Dr. William Feeney, professor of history, and Dr. Charles French, professor of English. One of the class's main projects, which took the majority of the semester, was to create a model of a monument using a 3D printer, with Instructional Technologist Jordan Noyes assisting the class.

French and Feeney had been teaching this cluster for six or seven years, explained Feeney, doing a letter writing project as well. The idea to switch to 3D printed monuments arose rather suddenly.

Noyes had wanted to do something that paired the Office of Information and Technology with the humanities, she explained, because she had a background in digital humanities. The two aren't often paired together, added Feeney.

"We don't typically think about technology when we think about the humanities," said Feeney. "When we think about things like 3D modeling and 3D printing or we think about these advances in technology, we often associate them to the sciences, the technologies and the mathematics. So, we were looking for a way to inject the humanities, for us more particularly history, into these technologies that Muhlenberg is now invested in."

In addition to combining new technologies, the class also drew on current events.

"When [Feeney] said he had

see **Cluster** | page 4

'Tis the season to apply for an Alternative Spring Break

By Ali Watson
Senior Staff Writer

While Winter Break is fast approaching, it's not too soon to start thinking about spring break plans here at 'Berg.

Students, along with the Student Life Office, have jointly been working to organize and plan for this year's Alternative Spring Break.

This year students will be going to Huntsville, Alabama, Washington DC, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Last year there were four trips to Louisiana, Alabama, New Jersey, and DC.

45 applications were submitted to fill a total of 30 spots. Currently group leaders are looking through the applications to build three teams. Group leaders are student organizers who, along with constructing a team, share the responsibility of effectively running their specific trip.

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Editorial

When 'fake news' gets real

The dangers of Trump's favorite phrase

For the last two years, Donald Trump has relied heavily on the term 'fake news,' claiming that the mainstream media reports unfactual news. His tactics propagated a general distrust of the media. But with Trump often using the term to describe any news that was not favorable to him or his views, fake news as his standard response became a stale, cop-out for the president of a nation.

Trump not only legitimized but weaponized the term to discredit many of the popular news outlets that provide coverage on national and international events. His accusations that legitimate sources of news are purveying illegitimate facts damages the credibility of these organizations. Worse yet, Trump's Twitter temper-tantrums are beginning to have a real-world effect internationally.

While Trump has claimed that negative election polls and details of a conversation with a prime minister were all just part of a political witch hunt, other leaders are now following his example, using fake news as a way to cover up horrific injustices to humanity.

The Rohingya persecution in Myanmar — fake news.

A long-persecuted community, the religious minority of Rohingya Muslims have faced unspeakable horrors at the hands of soldiers and the Buddhist majority. According to The Hill, these people have endured "scorched dwellings and entire villages, extrajudicial and summary execution, rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture and attacks on places of worship." Forced to find refuge in neighboring Bangladesh, the Rohingya are stateless.

And now, with attribution of fake news from top officials, they are denied their identity.

"There is no such thing as Rohingya," said U Kyaw San Hla, an officer in Myanmar's western area of Rakhine's state security ministry. "It is fake news."

Not only was an entire history erased by claiming that a group of people simply do not exist, but labeling this issue as fake news contributed to the coverup and perpetuation of inhumane practices. It leaves the Rohingya to face a looming genocidal ethnic cleansing alone.

The Libyan slave trade— also fake news.

Libya's splintered government and influx of refugees from Nigeria flooding the country has led to these people being sold into slavery and prostitution. CNN recently reported on the issue, handing over video footage of the alleged modern day slave auctions to Libyan officials.

However, Trump's vicious tweets accusing CNN of spreading fake news internationally have been cited by Libyan media outlets to discount and deny what is occurring in their country. Aside from being deprived of their dignity as human beings, the estimated 400,000 to one million migrants trapped in Libya are subject to robbery, rape and murder. Untouched by any rule of law across much of the country, these modern slave trades are allowed to occur.

This should not be an argument between the left and the right because this is indicative of something larger— an assault on human rights and its defenders, justified by the term fake news.

One would hope, journalists especially, that Trump's overuse of 'fake news' would make it a hackneyed term, that people would see it as unacceptable that the president of this country uses two words to diminish the credibility of outlets reporting facts that he does not agree with.

President Trump grounded his campaign in hate and now his unwarranted attacks on media outlets are being used to undermine and eliminate the public's understanding of unjust and ongoing crimes like those in Myanmar and Libya. He needs to recognize that his declarations have broad implications and impacts on both the media and the international political landscape, and that 'fake news' is not an adequate or appropriate response from the leader of the United States.

From the Editorial Board of
The Muhlenberg Weekly

Dinosaurs might not be extinct

By Will Wamser
Senior Staff Writer

We all know and love dinosaurs — a few of us may even be in love with dinosaurs. But there actually isn't a lot we know for sure about these dinos or "caveman dogs" as they are more commonly referred to as. For instance, did you know that most dinosaurs were small? Or that nine out of ten dinosaurs agree that Colgate is the toothpaste of winners? Or that the film "Jurassic World" was actually false? I'm gonna assume none of you knew that because, no offense, you're dumb and legally you can't be mad at me for saying that because I said no offense; my dad's a lawyer so I know laws. Look, everyone "knows" that dinosaurs had big chompers when in reality most dinosaurs chompers were average in size. We've been getting those easy facts wrong, so maybe we got a few other things wrong too. Namely, dinosaurs being extinct, because they are still here and they are still kicking it with all their buds, and maybe a little bit of bud. Studies have shown that dinosaurs would smoke weed like all the time. And more studies are showing that those same dinosaurs have gotten sober, but they are alive.

Recently, some nerdy science book said something about big lizards. Do not ask me what book, I did not read the book because reading is for dweebs and you better believe I am not a dweeb. Also, do not ask me what the book said about big lizards, remembering things is what losers do and I am a winner. You know what winners do? They know things, like how I know that those big lizards are actually velociraptors in disguise. I've got these hidden dinos numbers, the other day I saw a pterodactyl wearing Groucho Marx glasses. Groucho glasses, can you believe that? That pterodactyl thought they could trick me with Groucho glasses, little did they know that I invented Groucho glasses. When I saw this faker, I attacked. I came to this country to do two things: chew bubblegum and kill dinosaurs, and my dentist says I'm not allowed to chew bubble gum anymore. But I was stopped — by a dentist no less. I was yelling at her to let me go (that's right, the dentist was a woman) but she just kept telling me that I was going to hurt her "dog," which I'm ashamed to admit it but that's not a species of dinosaur I'm familiar with. And that's when I noticed that she was also wearing Groucho glasses and I figured out that she was only trying to stop me because she was also a dinosaur.

So I ran, because I'm very strong and handsome but not strong and handsome enough to take on two dinosaurs at once. Once I escaped I started really paying attention to what was going on around me. Groucho glasses, there are Groucho glasses everywhere, I'd say about one in ten, quote unquote, people are wearing Groucho glasses. Which means one in ten, quote unquote, people are actually some dinos. So, I went to my sister-in-law Cathy, I had to tell someone, I needed to know I wasn't the last human alive on this world of dinosaurs. I sit down in her office, head in my hands, freaking out about how I'm gonna stop this infestation. That's when I look up to see a plastic mustache connected to a

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FROM **DINOSAURS**
PAGE 2

plastic nose connected to plastic glasses, and I know they're Groucho's. I ran before she could feed me to her dino babies.

Long story short, I don't know how far this goes but I'm assuming all the way to the top. I am putting myself in immense danger by publishing this article and am actually very brave about it too. For all I know, my section editor could be a dino, the editor in cheese here could be a dino, heck even you could be a dino. If you are a dino, please disregard everything I said before this point and please stop reading, thank you. Now for those non-imposters who are still reading, listen up because we've got a lot of work to do to get rid of these darn dinos. I've made an event on facebook dot com for the day where we take our earth back, but before I can let you join I've got to make sure you aren't an informant. To become a part of an event you must friend me on the 'book, poke me a few times, we'll meet up for coffee, see where things go, no pressure, and if I determine that you are not wearing Groucho glasses then you join the ranks of me and my estranged son Jeremy in the revolution.

If I figure out you have dino DNA, then I'm gonna citizen's arrest you in front of your grandpap and then citizen's arrest your grandpap.

How breakfast can save your day

BY JORDAN ZUCKER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With winter break fast approaching, and the wonderful slew of exams that come before it, this week is crunch time for most Muhlenberg students. As someone who has roughly ten final projects coming up this week, I am stressed out and anxious to see how each assessment goes.

When I get anxious, I generally resort to eating copious amounts of food, to the point where my stomach aches and groans. For many students on campus this time of the year represents sorrow and misery, with a dash of poor sleep and long nights of study.

Waking up in the morning is not an easy thing to do, but eating a satisfying breakfast always helps me start the day with a refreshing feeling. Every morning, since I arrived on campus in August, I have made the trek to the dining hall from ML, yearning for that first cup of coffee of the day. I generally get a breakfast sandwich of eggs, cheese and some kind of meat on a bagel or english muffin — or if the line is too long, just scrambled eggs and some frizzled ham.

What surprises me the most about breakfast, however, is how few Muhlenberg students I see in the dining hall at 10 a.m.. While it's possible that I miss the morning rush of students who have 8 and 9 a.m. classes, I find it perplexing how few people I see in general in the morning. It's also entirely plausible that some students eat breakfast in their rooms or skip the meal entirely.

To those Muhlenberg students who drag themselves to class early on in the day: you're doing your body a disservice if you don't have some kind of food before you start your day.

You're doing your body a disservice if you don't have some kind of food before you start your day.

While most students here might agree that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, the Huffington Post reports that 28 percent of males and 18 percent of females that are between 18-24 years old skip out on breakfast entirely. Furthermore, the article concluded that, "The most common reasons people skip breakfast were that they weren't hungry, didn't feel like eating or they were too busy. Females are more likely than males to skip a morning meal because of being busy or running late."

Skipping breakfast is easy for some students since classes are early and the time that it takes to get ready is the only thing separating them from their bed and attending class. According to the academic journal Pediatrics, "Study after study shows that kids who eat breakfast function better...They do better in school, and have better concentration and more energy." Although this is just one source, there are hundreds of studies conducted by professional doctors and organizations which have proved that breakfast is the most important meal of the day for children, students and young adults alike.

I urge Muhlenberg students to come to the dining hall in the earliest hours of the day to sit down and eat a breakfast with plenty of protein, carbohydrates, and water to give their bodies the fuel that it needs to focus in on academic work.

This week is going to be tough, but I wish everybody the best of luck, and don't skip out on the one meal which might turn 'B' grade work into an 'A.'

Finding a home in the unknown

BY VAL WEISLER
STAFF WRITER

Home is a funny thing. As we get older, the places we call home multiply — starting off as the singular house on a suburban street or apartment in a busy city and then adding a freshman dorm and a house full of friends and more as each year goes by. I've called Wheatstone Road in New York home and I've called Prosser home. I now call the Pride House home. And it's not just buildings or bedrooms, it's people too. The friends I order pizza and watch Disney Channel Original movies with on Friday nights are home. The education class that reaffirms the field I am supposed to study is home. My mother, who will greet me with a cup of tea in a few weeks for winter break, is home. Leaving home is hard— it's saying goodbye to the familiar and the comfortable. So when I committed to speak at three events across Canada this semester, I felt butterflies in my stomach. I'd be leaving my many homes on this campus pretty frequently and I was terrified.

I am the founder and CEO of The Validation Project, an international organization that provides mentoring and social justice assignments to 6,000+ teenagers in 105 countries. I was approached by WE Movement, a global movement that holds stadium-sized events in the United States and Canada about social justice for youth, to speak at their 'WE Days' in Canada this fall alongside leaders such as Prince Harry, Ban Ki Moon, Kelly Clarkson and more. The opportunity was once in a lifetime — I'd get to share my story with 18,000 teenagers and see parts of the world I've never step foot in. But it would be the first time I was introducing my Validation Project life to my Muhlenberg life. Would I lose the safe haven I finally had here?

PHOTO COURTESY OF WE

Val Weisler, founder and CEO of the Validation Project, speaks on stage to the audience of WE Day Canada.

Fast-forward four months, three trips, four Canadian cities and G-d knows how many airports and this semester has been full of growth and adventure, but also, a lot of hard changes and challenges. But no matter what was happening, like clockwork, I was on a plane with someone I love every few weeks to travel to a new Canadian city. As I left the places and people so deeply engraved as home for me, I learned that it is even more powerful to find love and inspiration in places you don't call home. I screamed with the sea in Nova Scotia with my brother Alex, getting my rainboots soaked as I strode through water to explore a deserted island that remained nearly untouched. I looked above the world I knew on a suspension bridge hundreds of feet above ground in Vancouver with my mother. I ate my way through the depths of Chinatown in Toronto with my friend Jess, a Muhlenberg Alum. I shared my story with teenagers who came from thousands of schools across Canada with their own passions and issues. I got to see what I'm learning in classes in action: my Ethnicity in US Literature and Public Education for Immigrants cluster came to life in the Canadian Immigration Museum (Pier 21) in Halifax as I read the stories of refugees who have sought safety. My Spanish class clicked as I ate empanadas at a food stand in Granville Island with an old grandmother from Colombia. My sociology course connected the dots as I spoke to rural Nova Scotian teenagers about their socioeconomic experiences.

For now, my Canadian adventures are over — I got back from my last WE Day this weekend. But I made a pact with myself on the plane ride back that I will continue to find beauty and self-reflection in places far from what I know. As we all leave our Muhlenberg home for a month come Dec. 15, I encourage you to step outside that comfort zone and explore the places you don't call home. That street you never go down or that bus stop you never get off at may not be your home, but it's someone else's. And I guarantee you they've got quite the story to tell.

Campus Safety Notes

Monday, November 27
Assist Outside Agency - 3:45 a.m.
At 23rd and Gordon Streets, there was a report to assist the Allentown Police Department. Allentown EMS also responded. The individual involved was cited for Public Drunkenness.

Injured Visitor - 10:45 a.m.
In the Life Sports Center, there was a report of an injured visitor. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the visitor was transported to the hospital via a family member.

Found Property - 10:14 p.m.
At the South Parking Lot, there was a report of a found wristlet. A message was left for the owner to retrieve the item from Campus Safety.

Tuesday, November 28
Hit and Run - 7:10 p.m.
At 2206 Chew Street, there was a report of a hit and run. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Thursday, November 30
Fire Alarm Sounding - 7:09 a.m.
At 417 Leh Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding as a result of steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset.

Disabled Vehicle - 12:42 p.m.
At 23rd and Gordon Streets, there was a report of keys locked in a vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer successfully retrieved the keys.

Sick Student - 11:01 p.m.
In East Hall, Second Floor, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and Student Health Services was notified, and there was no further incident.

Friday, December 1
Check the Welfare - 7:33 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report to locate a student. Contact was made with the student, and there was no further incident.

Drug Violation - 1:00 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of possession of drug paraphernalia. The items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in an evidence locker.

Found Property - 3:02 p.m.
In Ettinger Hall, there was a report of a found handbag. The owner claimed the item.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 6:20 p.m.
In East Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding as a result of burnt food. The system was silenced and reset.

Vehicle Lock Out- 7:55 p.m.
On campus, there was a report of keys being locked in a vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer successfully retrieved the keys.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 8:46 p.m.
In South Hall, Fourth Floor, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding. Upon arrival, nothing could be noted to set off the alarm. The system was silenced and reset.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 8:46 p.m.
In South Hall, Second Floor, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding as a result of cooking. The system was silenced and reset.

Sick Student - 9:00 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, Third Floor, there was a report of a sick student. Allentown EMS and Allentown Fire Department responded. The student refused further treatment or transport.

Noise Complaint - 10:31 p.m.
In Robertson Hall, there was a report of a noise complaint. Upon arrival, the occupants were identified and spoken to. There was no further incident.

Saturday, December 2
Vandalism - 1:30 a.m.
On Muhlenberg Street, there was a report of damage found to a fence. There are no suspects at this time. The reporting party was told to also notify the Allentown Police Department.

Alcohol Violation - 1:37 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, Third Floor, there was a report of an alcohol violation. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and the alcohol was disposed of. There was a referral made to the Dean of Students office.

Check the Welfare - 3:14 p.m.
In East Hall, Third Floor, there was a report to locate a student. Contact was later made, and there was no further incident.

Sunday, December 3
Found Property - 2:30 a.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a found wristlet. A message was left to retrieve the item from Campus Safety.

Sick Student - 2:55 a.m.
In the Sorority Houses, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. Allentown EMS also responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Found Property - 8:14 a.m.
At the Front Drive, there was a report of a found wallet. A message was left for the owner to pick up the item at Campus Safety.

FROM **CLUSTER**
PAGE 1

a whole class that talked about monuments, it was right in the middle of Charlottesville. And so, it just clicked," said Noyes. "He didn't even really flesh it out, he was like, 'we could print monuments'...then he just ran over to his class and they sort've went with it from there."

The class began with basic pencil-and-paper planning, then converted the design to SketchUp, a digital modeling program. Noyes posted tutorials for SketchUp, and the students took to it very quickly, she said. The next challenge was getting the designs to translate into something the printer could print.

"You have to make so many decisions," said Noyes, "like how thick is the material going to build, how is it going to adhere to the glass plate that it's building form. And… a couple of them used this wood composite plastic, so it's actually got splinters of wood in it that can affect the flow of material. It might clog something. And so we had prints that would get halfway through and they'd just fail, completely, so you'd have to start over."

From start to finish it took Noyes three weeks print the monuments, during which she left the printer running almost constantly.

"I would print something during the day while I was here, and then start another print before I went home, and just come back in the morning and just take that one off and start the next one," said Noyes.

The project itself was a learning curve for all, but to Mike Rainone '20, it all paid off.

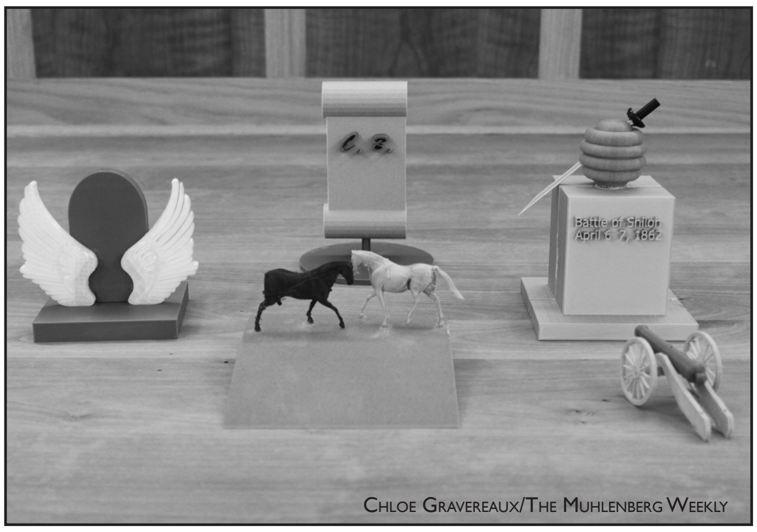
"Definitely the end product was well worth it, I think that's what really brought it all together for me," said Rainone. "I got to read the speech and everything and displaying it, I felt a sense of pride. Once it all came together, it was really rewarding."

Rainone was right to feel pride. Despite the impromptu beginning, the project quickly gained steam, drawing attention from many, including those from 'Berg and beyond.

"The history department was kind enough to allocate funds rather quickly when we wanted more access to different colors," said Feeney. "Having their support was instrumental to helping us move through the project and it injected a level of excitement in the students themselves to know that the history department was so supportive and so quick to allocate funds."

The project was additionally highlighted by OIT at their Digital Brew event, where faculty and staff come to discuss new technologies over coffee.

Feeney was also invited to hold a roundtable discussion at the Civil War institute at Gettysburg this June, specifically to discuss this project with other Civil War Scholars.



CHLOE GRAVEREAUX/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

The four students designed monuments, one dedicated to civil war horses (front center), one to the sanitary comission (left), one to the Battle of Shiloh (right), and one to Clara Barton (back center).

Feeney and French will be offering their cluster in the spring, which Quentin Bernhard '20 encourages curious students to take.

"I think it's a great experience and you get a good approach to [the content]," said Bernhard, "So it might spark your interest in history or literature, even though you don't think of yourself as someone interested in those fields."

Sound of Silence

Students weigh in on their perpetual 'Muhlenboredom' over the College's various breaks

By Ian Adler
News Editor

Muhlenberg

Ian Adler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Academic row's dismal emptiness over break reminds those still on campus of the 'Sound of Silence.'

A dormant Dining Hall, academic row absent of "hellos" and "how are yous" and reheated pizza for two meals a day may not be a typical week for most Muhlenberg students. However, for those who remain on campus for break, challenges like these can be the daily norm.

Jouman Barakat '20 has stayed at Muhlenberg over the course of the entire 2017 semester thus far, as well as the 2016 Thanksgiving break. The holiday-travel ticket prices of many airlines make returning to her home of Amman, Jordan expensive, while the distance makes a three day break almost not worth the trip.

"The thing is, if my family weren't in Jordan, if they were in the States, I would've wanted to go home," added Barakat. "It would be exhausting for me to take a 16-hour flight, spend three days there (barely), then 16 hours back and THEN start school again."

With many of the College's facilities closed and most students home for break, California natives Caden Fraser '20 and Taylor Phillips '20 looked for opportunities to spend past breaks out of town with friends.

"I know a lot of people here at Muhlenberg that can't go home for Thanksgiving do find places to go that are more on the East Coast," said Fraser. "It was nice to get off campus and have a little bit of a breather, but obviously there was still a disconnect because I wasn't able to go home."

"I always think it's going to be nice to just be by myself and not have to do work," added Phillips, "but it ends up always being really boring and nothing's ever open, so it kind of sucks."

This year, the Office of Residential Services hosted a 'Friendsgiving' dinner on the Wednesday before the holiday. Numerous professors openly welcomed the students to their homes for Thanksgiving dinner. Barakat recounted how "amazing" it was for Mathematics Professor Dr. Eugene Fiorini to invite all of the international students to his house.

With the Dining Hall closed for operation and GQ open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., shuttle schedules are shifted yet still allow students to stock up on groceries and other supplies for the week.

"If you live in a dorm, you have to stock up on food from GQ," added Phillips on the limited availability of food options over break. "It does make it hard to stay over break."

"For some people, it's fine to stay here because they cook their own food," said Barakat. "For me, it's pretty difficult because if I try to do anything in the kitchen, I would burn the whole school down."

With some working almost all year round, Dining Hall, GQ and other Sodexo staff find that the time over break is a great opportunity to use vacation time.

"During the school year, when we're busy, we're busy," said John Pasquarello, General Manager of Muhlenberg Dining Services. "So a lot of the employees like the fact that they can stay home with their family, spend the the holiday with their family and get some time off."

Time off from school and work means a chance to travel — for Dan Amouyal '18, a student from Jerusalem, Israel, the college's proximity to his American side of the family offered a great opportunity to get closer with them over breaks.

"I think it's important to delve upon my family life in terms of my relationship with my family that I didn't have such a close, intense relationship with," said Amouyal. "Both families [American and Israeli side] feel much closer now."

When applying to American institutions, Amouyal was partially directed by his parent's resistance to his plan to study in New York City where some family lived. "They were like 'we're going to send you to a school out in the sticks,'" he added, describing his arrival at Muhlenberg College.

Amouyal spent this past Thanksgiving with his uncles in Riverdale, the Bronx, where he would visit restaurants, drink margaritas and spend time with them around the house. Apart from this, Dan made himself at home — watching Netflix, reading and catching up on work were woven into his relaxed schedule.

Barakat, although bored, was appreciative of her on-campus experience this past Thanksgiving break.

"I should've done my homework, but I didn't — I'd either watch Netflix or produce music," said Barakat. "I just stayed in my room for most of the time. It was great, it was wonderful, but there really wasn't any other reason for me to leave my room."

The age of the College's campus and the legends that surround its history proved to be no aid to Barakat and Phillips over their stays at Muhlenberg's very own version of the Overlook Hotel.

"I was doing this project about this ghost that haunts South Hall for my class so researching this ghost and staying in East, which is already haunted, is kind of scary when you're by yourself," said Barakat. Barakat also utilized Campus Safety as escorts across campus one night because of the discomfort generated by its emptiness.

"I lived in Brown and those hallways are very large in particular," added Phillips. "It's just kind of creepy because you know you're supposed to be the only one there, but you definitely hear things and it definitely kind of creeps me out."

For those who stay over the course of the Winter break, several events are put on by offices within the Division of Student Affairs. Last year, ORS invited students to go ice skating, followed by dinner at a nearby Bethlehem restaurant. There was also a game night in Seegers open to those still on campus.

"Everybody kind of takes on some sort of program or idea to try to plan. Is there something everyday? No, it's an entire month. But we do try to scatter it out," said Kathleen Mangold, Associate Director of Residential Education. "I know staff comes in on their own time and does stuff with students at night, not just during office hours."

Upon first arriving at Muhlenberg, Amouyal's initial plan was to stay on campus for the duration of Winter break. The new environment and unique sense of independence proved to be taxing, however.

"As the semester went along and as I started to deal with being an international student but studying here by myself, I was calling my folks and I wanted to go home. I needed that boost to get me ready for the next semester," said Amouyal. "That was really difficult for me because that was always in my subconscious."

Regardless of the inconvenience of long-distance travel, the trade-offs are worth sacrificing some family time.

"I think that's one thing that I had to make a decision myself before I even came to Muhlenberg," said Fraser. "I came to this school to get a good education and do what I love and if that means sacrificing some kind of family time to do that, I think I'm willing to do that."

FROM **TRIPS**
PAGE 1

In years past Callista Isabelle, the College Chaplain, has been the staff member in charge of overseeing the trips. However this year, because of Callista's imminent departure, Ellen Lentine, from the Student Life Office, will now be charged with fulfilling the role.

The groups do receive support from the Student Life Office, both when planning the trip and by providing a modest financial contribution, which derives from the student activities fee. However, the students are expected to carry out the majority of the work for organizing and executing the trips.

It is important to note that all of the trips are organized on an individual basis.

The Huntsville trip is organized through the Habitat for Humanity group on campus. Students have also previously gone to New Orleans and have an established reputation with an organization down there. Conversely, the trip to Houston in particular is one of note as this was organized purely on student initiative.

"It was an amazing feeling, knowing that we were molding a strong foundation for those who needed it"

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, this year three students reached out to local organizations to set up the trip this spring. All of these trips have been proposed by students and approved by a service committee.

Ellen Lentine hopes to continue to expand on the annual Spring Break trips in the coming years by continuing to add new trips and even include international destinations. She also said that she hopes the Student Life Center can support and encourage additional service excursions over winter break and throughout the semester.

Overall, the Alternative Spring Break Program has long-offered meaningful experiences for Muhlenberg students. As described by group leader and trip veteran Julia Termine '20, "It was an amazing feeling, knowing that we were molding a strong foundation for those who needed it. Although we were only working on one house, I felt like I was doing more than just helping a single family."

"I had the opportunity to bond with individuals [who were a part] of Muhlenberg's student body who were passionate about helping and engaging in community service — our bond is still close and unique," Termine added.

HOW TO SURVIVE

FINALS WEEK

TIPS FROM THE PROS THAT HAVE SEEN IT ALL

AT A GLANCE

- PLAN AHEAD
- BUDGET YOUR TIME
- MAKE A LIST
- STUDY IN SMALL CHUNKS
- TEST YOURSELF
- DO PRACTICE PROBLEMS
- GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

With finals week looming ever closer the stress of exams and papers can become overwhelming. Thankfully, there are resources and study tips that can help make finals week just a little bit easier.

Throughout the semester the Academic Resource Center (ARC) has been hosting workshops for first year students to help with the transition to college. The final one of the semester covered finals preparation and gave tips for getting through this coming week relatively stress free.

Mary Beth Kallen, associate director of the ARC, gave an overview of what this workshop covered, as well as tips that apply to all students who find themselves overwhelmed by work. The three main things that she emphasized was time management, self-care and preparation.

"Overall what you want to be doing is managing your time," Kallen said. She suggested that students should be planning their time about two weeks before finals week. "We don't plan to fail, we fail to plan."

Once students have a schedule Kallen suggests that they get organized. "Make sure you have or can get everything you need" she said, citing notes and sources for papers as examples. "That you're not scrambling at the last minute [to find information] because that would add to your stress."

"Use external organizers, even a simple to do list made in the morning of things you want to accomplish that day," was another of Kallen's suggestions to help lighten the mental load.

When it comes to actually studying for the final Kallen suggests actively doing something with the information.

"When you're looking at something and reading it in the moment it does make sense. The best way to prepare to answer questions is by answering questions," Kallen said.

Likening studying to a physical activity like football, Kallen explained that someone wouldn't read a book on the sport and then go out and play a game, they would need to practice the physicality of throwing the ball and running plays. She suggests self testing as a way to practice the information that you've learned.

Andrew Rice '19, is a biology, chemistry and calculus tutor and he gave the same tip, saying "testing and quizzing yourself is the best way to prepare yourself for finals."

"I feel like flashcards can be helpful but only in certain situations," Rice said. He added that he thinks they're better suited to things with a lot of memorization like languages rather than organic chemistry "since the course deals a lot more with concepts and mechanisms than rote memorization."

For finals that involve math problems, Rice said that he thinks "doing practice problems for those courses are a much more efficient way of studying. Because if you don't know what you're doing that practice problem will show that."

"Yes you can read your notes 50 times but that doesn't mean you absorbed what you read," said Nisha Godbole '20, a chemistry and psychology tutor.

She also suggests working with a partner or group on practice problems on a board in an empty classroom or the library. "Testing each other and finding a study buddy to test yourself with can help too," said Godbole.

Rice said that it's also important to be confident when it comes to exams. "I've seen both my tutees and students in workshops stress way too much over the information," he said. Rice suggested that taking 20 to 30 minutes each day to study will help with that confidence when the day of the exam rolls around.

"All your notes are going to be in depth so for each lecture make one page of the most important key points or things you might forget and then read it over the day before the test," Godbole said. Similar to Rice's suggestion, this breaks up studying into smaller, more manageable chunks.

Kallen also suggested breaking up your studying, explaining that it was actually more effective. Advising against cramming, Kallen said that trying to study all your material in a few hours will actually hurt more than help. "Three one-hour sessions are better than one three-hour session," according to Kallen.

Kallen, Rice and Godbole all gave similar tips as to how to prepare the night before an exam, especially the importance of getting a good night's sleep. Rice added that it's better to get a good night's sleep and mess up on the exam because of not knowing the material than to know the material and mess up thanks to exhaustion.

"When you know you knew something but you still get it wrong on the exam is the worst feeling," Rice said.

Godbole said to make sure an alarm is set; the worst thing would be sleeping through an exam. In the morning she says to eat a good breakfast, something that Kallen also mentioned. Kallen added that it's important to eat protein, which increases alertness, and fruits, which improves recall.

"You want to make sure you have fuel, you want to relax as much as you can. That last minute trying to cram in things can actually make you more anxious because you might be afraid that you're going to forget something," Kallen said.

Additional information on study preparations for finals can be found in the ARC. Students can also schedule a meeting with Kallen to talk about strategies and concerns.

More than just exams, finals week is often the deadline for numerous essays. Kate O'Donoghue is the assistant director of the Writing Center and a 'Berg alumnus who was willing to offer her suggestions for getting through those finals week papers.

"Think about the prompt, try and follow the prompt but don't be afraid to follow your interest as well. Even if you write two pages that you're interested in and then having to veer back and cut back will help you understand it better," O'Donoghue said about how to start a paper.

To O'Donoghue, writing is a form of thinking and that it's best to write a lot and then cut things out and edit down. "Write and write and write until you know what it is you mean to say," O'Donoghue said.

"I never ever start with the introduction. I always free write my thoughts first" said Emily Panetta '20, one of the Writing Center's tutors. She also said that she does this before even coming up with a thesis.

Sasha Cheer '19, another writing tutor, said, "when you start typing write about what you think about the prompt, don't worry about quotes or secondary sources, just write about what you think."

Another thing that all three recommended was reading the paper aloud, a standard practice in the Writing Center. Panetta says she does this to check the paper's flow, grammar and that it doesn't have errors. Cheer referenced how most people dislike reading their work aloud but she says it helps to catch grammar errors or sentence structure errors.

"Talking about your paper is the most helpful thing you can do," O'Donoghue said. Whether it be with a writing tutor, professor or friend, O'Donoghue stressed that "talking about it will help you think about it."

"I'm a big fan of peer editing or at least peer feedback," Panetta said. Like O'Donoghue, she thinks that it allows for a reevaluation of what was written.

Cheer said that working with someone can help to make sure that the connections and logic of the paper are clear, especially on a research paper. This outsider's perspective makes it easier to find holes in the author's logic, or as O'Donoghue put it, "making the implicit explicit."

O'Donoghue's checklist before turning an essay in includes double checking the prompt to make sure it's formatted correctly and that it answers the prompt, proofread, ensure it makes sense when it's read and finally ensuring that it's being turned in how the professor wanted, whether that was online or a hardcopy or both. The last thing on her list? "Making sure that i'm happy with the thinking that I've done."

"Don't be afraid to let yourself think and let yourself explore whatever topic you're doing with the goal of exploring good thinking rather than to goal of creating some 'perfect paper'," Panetta said as a final piece of advice.

WRITING CENTER

FINALS WEEK HOURS

12/10–12/12 7-10 PM

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Arts & Culture

“It’s not exlusive, but inclusive, which is the whole spirit of jazz.”
—Herbie Hancock

Photos courtesy of Ken Ek

Living with intention—and without

New Visions/New Voices 2 features two student-directed pieces: *Conform* and *The Bald Soprano*

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Every so often, a piece of theatre comes around that reshapes the limits of what theatre can be. That piece might place a character at the center of its story who has rarely seen the spotlight, allowing them to blink in its brightness and revel in being able to tell their tale. Or perhaps that piece might break down everything you thought you knew about the confines of the stage — the confines of life itself, even — by shaking up once-dependable forces of nature that now give way to chaos. If you’re lucky, you might even see a couple of these revolutionary plays in a single evening.

Such was the case with New Voices/New Visions Part Two, an extraordinary duo of plays presented from Nov. 29 to Dec. 3 in the Studio Theatre. Featuring the original work “Conform” by alum Joseph McNaney ’17 and the classic absurdist piece “The Bald Soprano” by Eugène Ionesco, this run of shows was certainly not one to forget.

First came “Conform,” the profoundly comedic tale of Sam, a 14-year-old high school student with Tourette’s syndrome. Placed on a set consisting of only a large desk on the right, a kitchen table on the left, and a backdrop made up of five pastel-painted panels periodically lit with different primary colors, the Studio Theatre became the perfect playground for Sam’s fantasies, full of heroes, villains, and mystical queens. Not all of Sam’s life is so whimsical, however — after being restrained by his principal and instinctively punching her in the face, he becomes entrenched in a battle between his mother and the administration, one that ultimately threatens to place him in a special education school. Camille Seidel ’18, who plays Sam’s dedicated mother Liz, recalls the various ways in which the play, like Sam’s life, is balanced between two extremes.

“The play is sort of a mix between harsh reality and the worlds that Sam creates in his head to deal with that harsh reality in which he is a superhero named Dumb-Pussy-Ass-Fag-Man,” said Seidel. “It’s a funny show and it’s a comedy, but it’s definitely playing with a really serious issue which is, I think, what makes the funny parts funnier.”

There have been mixed reactions to the profanity and slurs utilized in this play — even its director, Irene Martinko ’18, was initially hesitant towards their use.

“When I first read the script, I was definitely impressed with the writing, but I was also super nervous,” Martinko said. “The show is full of harsh language and addresses some difficult conversations in a very straightforward way and I wasn’t sure if I was qualified to take on the project. I basically had to do months of research and brainstorming so that I could really understand the show, and after that, I completely fell in love with the script.”

I, too, was unsure about how these words could be used responsibly, but as I watched the show, I began to comprehend why they might have been included. The profanity is not condoned for use by an authority figure, but is tossed around in a deliberately immature fashion by the four 14-year-old male characters as if to underline their casual cruelty and pure nonchalance towards the true meaning behind their speech. We’ve all known these boys in high school, and these characters add an almost-too-real sense of groundedness to a piece that frequently blurs the line between fantasy and reality.

This is part of what makes “Conform” such an interesting and important show— while it stages typical teenage snapshots like a hallway wrestling match between friends, certain moments, sometimes in direct conversation with these silly actions, are painfully poignant. When Sam, expertly played by Sean Kenny ’20, stops time in his conversation to let the audience in on how he’s really feeling, we are allowed to share his consciousness and are made all too aware of his inner struggle. When Liz, faced with her son’s rejection of her comfort, spends an agonizing few moments silently gathering her emotions only to reach for the superhero costume that will allow her to become the strong, all-knowing Master Mater, the audience is physically weighed down by her sorrow.

“Conform is a critique of the way the American education system treats students with disabilities, a commentary on toxic masculinity, and a simple coming-of-age story about a boy with a disability,” Martinko said. “It’s scary to do a play that’s never been done before but also really interesting because you have nothing to compare it to. You get to solve problems and come up with ideas to a create a show that no one’s ever seen and that actually gives you a lot of freedom.”

Though the freedom of a piece unknown allowed the team behind “Conform” to break new ground, the same went for the established work “The Bald Soprano,” which, like “Conform,” refused to obey the ordinary rules of space and time.

“‘The Bald Soprano’ is a strange play to say the least. People ask me what it’s about, and honestly I’m still not really sure myself,” said Laine Flores ’20, who played the hot-tempered Mrs. Smith. “The Martins come over to the Smith’s home in the outskirts of London to have dinner. The fire captain arrives in search of conflagration, and stays to tell some stories. There’s also Mary, she’s the maid. Generally absurd dinner conversation and the gradual collapse of reality ensues.”

And collapse it did — though the set resembled what one might think of as a traditional British living room, the clock at its center turned backwards and forwards in time at its will, even lighting up red and issuing smoke at some points. Mr. and Mrs. Martin, through a series of bizarre coincidences, discover that they must be married, only to have the illusion broken by Mary, who informs the audience that the two are not who they think they are. The doorbell rings when no one is there, and the fire captain laments a lack of flames as he tells stories made up almost entirely of non-sequiturs.

Though this might sound confusing — and indeed it is — it’s also a whole lot of fun. No one in the audience could hold back a laugh, even if they might not have had any idea what they were laughing at. It is this magical sense of the unknown, according to director Brydon Geisler ’18, that makes this show worth watching.

“I don’t want to assign a meaning to this play, because I think the play questions the very need for meaning,” Geisler said. “I see it as an exaggeration of life, and that’s what gives it its charm … time as a controlling, yet subjective force, gender roles, and petty fights, words lose their meaning without context. I want the audience to feel inspired to live a little more [meaningfully].”

This message certainly applies to both plays — if we could all just live a little more meaningfully, a little more intentionally, maybe we too could start something new.

Local jazz group 'Mike Lorenz and Friendz' perform in the Red Door

Eliana Weinsfeld/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Sandy Aldred (pictured) played the upright bass for Mike Lorenz and Friendz on Friday.

By Arielle Moss
Contributing Writer

"95% of what I do is play jazz," said Mike Lorenz, the Pennsylvanian Jazz musician who performed in a concert at the Red Door last Friday.

Students took a break from studying and writing final papers to release some stress while listening to an easygoing jazz concert, performed by Mike Lorenz and Friendz. The concert was a part of Red Door Jazz and it was presented last Friday, Dec. 1. The event was open to the public and was sponsored by Muhlenberg's Student Engagement as well as Muhlenberg's radio station, WMUH.

The general manager of WMUH, Paul Krempasky, explains that Mike Lorenz is a local guitarist/composer/band leader who has performed solo and with other musicians. Along with Krempasky, Ellen Lentine, who is the Associate Director of Student Engagement for Student Activities and Events, helped to coordinate the Mike Lorenz and Friendz concert. Last Friday, Lorenz performed as part of a trio on guitar with Sandy Eldren on the bass and Kevin Daly on the drums. The trio performed original compositions as well as renditions of established jazz pieces.

"[My favorite part about performing is] the spontaneity," said Lorenz.

Lorenz started playing jazz when he was in high school around the age of fifteen or sixteen. During this time, with the help of his high school tennis coach, he realized that he wanted to be a musician.

"I had some mentors that pointed me in the right direction … My coach was like a big jazzhead and so he kind of gave me like some music to listen to," said Lorenz.

Lorenz graduated from Moravian college with a degree in Jazz Performance.

"And when I went to college, there were some mentors that I also had there," said Lorenz.

What Lorenz loves the most about jazz music is the freedom, community and communication.

"You know you get to work with [many musicians] and make it work. It's really democratic," said Lorenz.

Mike Lorenz and Friendz has been performing together in Pennsylvania for five years.

"My friend Gene came up with the name and he owns this place that we and I play at every week, and it's called 'Tired Hands Brewing Company' in Ardmore [Pennsylvania]," said Lorenz. "I have different friends every week so he [Gene] called it 'Mike Lorenz and Friendz."

The jazz musician has released a couple of albums. Lorenz released his first album in 2012 called "Out of the Woods."

"It is like a modern jazz quintet thing and a little of a freer thing that I played with Kevin [Daly, who performed with Lorenz in the Red Door]."

Lorenz also recorded an organ trio album which includes covers of songs by the bands Black Sabbath and Nirvana. His other albums are called: "Riverside," "Mike Lorenz and Friendz," "I Am Watching My Day Slowly Disappear," "Trudy" and "Two Quartets."

Mike Lorenz gets his inspiration for writing and playing music from all kinds of places, including new music that he is listening to as well as music that he has always loved.

"The music of my heroes … trying to get inside it … is a big inspiration," said Lorenz.

Lorenz mostly performs at local Pennsylvania venues, such as bars and restaurants. He plays a little bit in Lehigh Valley and at a local bookstore. Every now and then, he performs gigs at other places, such as colleges like Muhlenberg or the Trapp Door Gastropub in Emmaus, Pennsylvania.

"I can fake a lot of instruments, but I just play guitar," said Lorenz.

Candlelight Carols, an interfaith event

Arielle Waxman/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Sandy Aldred (pictured) played the upright bass for Mike Lorenz and Friendz on Friday.

By Brooke Greenberg
Contributing Writer

An atmospheric sound filled the walls of the Egner Memorial Chapel on Saturday, Dec. 2 and Sunday, Dec. 3 for the annual Advent Candlelight Carols. The Candlelight Carols are performed and adapted from the Festival of Lessons and Carols of King's College, Cambridge University in England. They are performed to celebrate the season of advent, the awaiting of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. Reverend Callista Isabelle partnered with the Departments of Theatre, Dance and Music, to put on the phenomenal and inspirational show.

The process of organizing Candlelight Carols was a collaborative effort between Rev. Isabelle, Dr. Chris Jackson in the Music Department, Jeffrey Peterson in the Dance Department, Andrew Long, an organist, and Tanya Schock, who is the Assistant to the Chaplain.

Several choirs were featured, ,including the College Choir, the Chamber Singers and the Handbell Choir. A live organist also added to the magic of the show.

"Advent Candlelight Carols is a beautiful service of choir music, dance, scripture readings and candlelight. The service brings together special elements of our community, [Muhlenberg's] Lutheran roots, students active in the arts, readers who are faculty and staff members, alumni, students and friends of the College," said Isabelle.

Isabelle has been involved with the Advent Candlelight Carols since the Advent season of 2012. It is a tradition that goes back 60 years, as it was started by students here at Muhlenberg College.

"Candlelight Carols was started by a student in 1957, and continues because people love the tradition. I think people love it because it is a beautiful service that helps people reflect and prepare for the Christmas season," said Isabelle.

"This is my first year in Candlelight Carols singing in the choir. It is always nice to sing and create music with a community of people, which has made my experience so positive," said Miriam Holsbeke '21.

Holsbeke also noted that because she is Jewish, this is her first time in a Lutheran-service setting, but it nevertheless has been an eye-opening experience.

The song list included "O Nata Lux," "Oseh Shalom," "Stars," and "Silent Night."

"Candlelight Carols almost signifies the beginning of the holiday season and reminds you of what values and traditions the Lutheran religion is all about," said Anders Getz '21.

Candlelight Carols are equally about celebrating the holiday season through music and dance and celebrating the holiday season with community members across the Lehigh Valley.

"I hope the community takes away that there is a lot to learn about and remember when it is the holiday season," said Getz.

Light is a recurring theme in the show, with a light being passed from candle to candle until the whole room is lit up beautifully.

"Spreading light from one small flame out of darkness is a huge theme in candlelight carols. Whenever we light candles, we use our own singular flames to share with our neighbors, and in only a short time, we light the entire chapel again. I hope the community will take away this theme of finding light no matter how small and spreading it the best they can," said Holsbeke. "To me, Candlelight Carols [means] it is the time of year to spread cheer through music."

This year also marks Isabelle's last Candlelight Carols, as she is leaving her position as Muhlenberg's reverend in early December.

Candlelight Carols is an event unlike any other and the cheer and joy it spreads to others is bountiful, a sentiment echoed by Isabelle.

"This year's Candlelight Carols services were truly beautiful, thanks to the hard work of choirs, dancers and our dedicated staff and faculty. I was deeply moved at various points throughout the services," said Isabelle.

Brass, Drums, and all that jazz

By Ethan Forrer
Contributing Writer

"What Is Hip?" Well, according to the not so coincidentally ordered song list from last week's jazz concert, it's "Hip To Be Square." This performance featured a semester's worth of hard work and dedicated practice from our own Jazz Big Band group. Big Band is an about fifteen-student strong jazz ensemble directed by the very talented, but still energetic and humorous, Tony Gairo. "Big band" is technically a subgenre of jazz music where it is expected that there will be multiple musicians playing each instrument in tandem, orchestra style, that was particularly popular around the WWII era. However, part of the mission that Gairo has for the Big Band jazz ensemble is to prove that it still has contemporary relevance by performing jazz songs that weren't originally written to be played by a larger jazz ensemble. Last Friday's concert in the Empie theater covered a wide range of jazz songs and sounds including songs you may know like "Hip To Be Square" by Huey Lewis And The News, and "Hey Jude" by The Beatles.

Going to a Muhlenberg Big Band concert is a unique experience I think you'd only be able to have here. The music was incredible. Jazz fan or not, when music is played with this much personality and energy, there's no way you can't enjoy it. The unique aspect specific to this school, and the part that probably struck me the most, was just how casual and confident the whole band was. In between each song, Gairo would jog over to a mic and make comments like what the upcoming song means or make shout-outs to different members of the band and people who helped behind the scenes, waving to those in the audience and even have a quick conversation with one of them in the middle of the show. When the band wasn't playing, a couple trumpet players might start chatting with each other or a saxophone player might shout about something to Gairo. Much in line with the improvisational but finely tuned feel of jazz music, one moment the group might be all over the place, but as soon as the song starts, they become as organized as a marching band whilst still maintaining that poetic sense of freedom.

Brian Acquaviva '21, currently the sole trombone player in the band, explains what jazz music means to him: "The way jazz usually works is there's improv, you saw that with a lot of lower solos especially in 'Hey Jude,' but it's not all about improv," Acquaviva goes on to explain how these improvised sections fit in with the rest of the published song. "For the solos, we had a predesignated solo section that's just built into the music, and each of those soloists, the four of them [were] José [Cruz '18], Johnny [Tamburro '18], Golan [Gil-More '18], and Henri [Reiss-NaVarre '19], they each play that section twice, so they repeated that entire sixteen-ish measure section eight times."

Acquaviva continues by talking more about the Big Band group and what they typically do. They meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 to 9:00 at night unless Tony, the director, is busy with his other job at Moravian College in Bethlehem. "Directors usually spend, like, at least ten hours working on the next semester's lineup," Acquaviva mentions. Every Big Band rehearsal involves practicing the preselected songs in preparation for these end of semester concerts.

If you're not currently a fan of jazz music, then I believe that you probably just haven't heard a good jazz number in a while and you should probably go about fixing that. Big Band is a talented and dedicated group that spends all that meeting time practicing for once-a-semester jazz blow outs. I would strongly recommend that anyone who enjoys music should stop by the Big Band's next free concert at the end of next semester and prepare to hear the proof behind music theory with the accompaniment of a rhythm section. I don't know if you've ever met a jazz orchestra before, but here, they're kinda a Big Deal.

Tony Gairo's Big Band. Featured soloists include: Brian Acquiviva (lower right) and Henri Reiss-Navarre on guitar.

All Photos:
Cole Geissler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

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after
dark

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FROM **MILNE**
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saw enough to be convinced that Milne was the right fit for the position.

"Coach Milne has all the qualities we were looking for in our next head football coach," said Goff. "He is passionate, energetic, fiercely competitive, intelligent and he has tremendous work ethic. Having worked in several other successful programs he is well equipped to initiate change that will enhance our program while respecting the legacy of success that has been Muhlenberg Football for the past 21 years."

Milne thinks that the biggest change he will have to experience in his new role is delegation, which is something he said Coach Donnelly was fantastic at doing.

"As an offensive coordinator I was breaking down a lot of film and focusing on practice preparation, but now those responsibilities go to the assistants," said Milne. "As a head coach, I need to give coaches a list of things needed to be practiced, and I give the final check."

"He is passionate, energetic, firecely competitive, intelligent, and he has and he has tremendous work ethic."

Goff continued to praise Milne, expressing the confidence he has in the new head coach to continue to lead Muhlenberg's football program to future successes. Although the Mules achieved a 8-3 record along with an ECAC Football Fest bowl game win to cap the year, they missed out on the NCAA tournament and the Centennial-MAC Bowl Series. Looking back at the last season, Goff thinks Milne's makeup will be realistic in evaluating what worked well enough to get the Mules into a postseason game, but what can improve to get the team to the premier playoff matchups.

"Coach Milne is willing to reflect critically on past practice yet he has great conviction toward his core philosophies. In other words, he is open-minded and willing to consider new ideas but stubborn enough to ensure he will not let the ship get off course at the first sign of troubled water," said Goff.

For Muhlenberg football the shift will not be anything overwhelmingly which will help players. "Schemes are consistently evolving. They are a year to year process that revolves around the student athletes that we have," explained Milne.

Often in college and professional programs, a new head coach can mean mass changes, sometimes resulting in every assistant coach being replaced to fit the likings of the new head coach. Milne brings along no such demands as there will be no chances to play calling responsibilities. That means Milne calling offensive plays, Kory David (who served in 2017 as interim defensive coordinator and will be promoted to full-time defensive coordinator for the 2018 season) calling the defensive sets, and Josh Carter calling the special teams plays.

Goff also sees positives about Milne looking to continue tradition rather than refurbish the already successful program.

"Nate wants to continue a positive culture where our coaches work very hard," Goff said. "His vision is one where we do the right things in pursuit of excellence. Sounds like a formula for success to me".

Ultimately, Goff believes that this story can come full circle, and that Milne can do for Mules what Milne's coaches once did for him.

"Nate is a tremendous role model for our student athletes and coaches," said Goff. "He works very hard but has a lot of fun and his family is at the core of who he is."

Crafting the college: Coaches discuss the ins and outs of recruitment at Muhlenberg

BY JOSH LEDERMEN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

During the summer and fall, Muhlenberg's head baseball coach Tod Gross and the rest of the baseball coaching staff travels throughout the country to scout potential Muhlenberg baseball players at many showcase games and camps.

"From June to November we travel mostly in the Mid-Atlantic region, but also to New England, California and Florida. We go to tournaments, academic baseball camps and academic showcases," says Gross.

Coach Gross is one of many coaches at Muhlenberg, and NCAA Division III athletics for that matter, who puts a large portion of time in their sports respective off season to hit the road and recruit.

But deciding where to recruit is different for every program, and coaches have to weigh the needs of their program when beginning to search for the next class of student athletes.

"We first try and learn more about the player we are recruiting so that when they visit our campus we can tailor the visit to appeal to their interests and desires," said Alexa Keckler, Muhlenberg's head volleyball coach. Keckler has made an impact on student athletes from coast to coast across the county. The Mules volleyball squad represents 11 different states on their roster of 14 players.

"An important part of the recruiting process is meeting with the prospective student athlete and their parents on campus," said Megan Eddinger, field hockey head coach. "During this time we discuss our program as well as strengths that the prospective student athlete could contribute to our program."

However, the process is not yet over after prospective recruits have said their goodbyes for the day they visit.

"Once they have visited, we spend a lot of time making sure they know we want them. This could include emails, letters, calls, texts and marketing materials that highlight our program and institution," explained Keclker.

At an institution like Muhlenberg, recruiting is not as simple as finding the best high school athletes that would want to come to the school and offering the prospective recruit a roster spot. There are many academic guidelines coaches must follow to keep up with the school's academic reputation.

"We look for players that will not only help our program continue to improve but ... will be good community members."

"We are looking to recruit a very good student that we feel would be a great fit for Muhlenberg academically," said Gross. "From a baseball stand-point we are looking to bring in prospective student athletes that fit the way we try and play the game and have the same type goals individually as we have as a program."

Keckler had similar thoughts on recruiting young adults who contributed to more than just Muhlenberg Athletics.

"We look for players that will not only help our program continue to improve but to also find players that will be good community members. It is important that the players buy in to our culture of respect, dedication, accountability and relentlessness," said Keckler.

Muhlenberg's men's soccer program, led by Sean Topping, uses the winter break to hatch down recruits for the following fall season.

"We will attend tournaments to continue to watch our prospective student athletes and start making our recruiting list of 2019 prospects," said Topping. "If needed, we will schedule home visits to go sit with recruits and their families to drive home our commitment and interest in them — whether that is setting up late visits, interviews or overnight visits once the spring semester starts."

Topping also explained the relationship his program has with admissions.

"We work with admissions to make sure all application information arrives and hopefully getting the majority of our 2018 class to apply Early Decision," said Topping.

Athletic Director Corey Goff credits the coaching staffs at Muhlenberg for all of the hard work they do to find student-athletes that fit athletically and academically at Muhlenberg.

"Our coaches do most of the recruiting work for our department. They spend a great deal of time traveling, evaluating prospects, talking to high school and travel, and club coaches. They sell Muhlenberg to recruits and their families in an effort to build a large enough funnel of quality student athletes to ensure we yield great classes each year," said Goff.

At a college with an enrollment of about 2400 students and 22 varsity athletic teams, Goff notes that coaches must recruit a substantial number of student-athletes in order for Muhlenberg to meet their overall enrollment goals.

"On average, student athletes recruited by our coaches make up 25-30% of each first-year class at Muhlenberg."

"On average, student athletes recruited by our coaches make up 25-30% of each first-year class at Muhlenberg, so our coaches play a major role in helping the college meet our overall enrollment goals." Although Muhlenberg coaches are the main players in recruiting student-athletes, Goff offers a helping hand to the coaches in the recruiting process of student-athletes.

"I offer assistance by occasionally meeting with prospective student athletes and their families, discussing recruiting strategy with coaches and by working with our colleagues in admissions to establish and implement our strategic plan for athletic recruitment," said Goff.

Goff also holds the coaches to high standards when recruiting student-athletes in order to represent Muhlenberg in the best possible manner.

"First and foremost, we want to represent Muhlenberg with professionalism, class, and integrity throughout the recruiting process," explained Goff.

There is also the need for coaches to recruit student-athletes that want to have a positive liberal arts education experience as well as help their respective athletic program win championships.

"We want to recruit student athletes who are interested in a quality, residential liberal arts experience and have a burning desire to reach their fullest potential in the classroom, in our community and in their athletic endeavors," said Goff. "We want to attract great students who contribute positively to our community and want to win championships."

For each sport the process and timetable to recruit athletes who want to succeed both in the classroom and on the field may be challenging, but coaches at 'Berg have found ways to recruit as best as possible.

"In terms of location, Muhlenberg is in a prime spot compared to our competitors," said Eddinger. "Our campus is one hour from Philadelphia, and one and a half hours from New York City. Campus is easily accessible for prospective student athletes who are traveling around the Tri-State Area searching for an institution."

Keckler had similar thoughts.

"Every institution has their challenges, but each one also has a niche. We have to work our angles and find the kid that is in our niche," she said. "Recruiting is not easy, but it's a fun and challenging process."

Full speed ahead for winter track

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

BY STEVEN SHOEMAKER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Men's and Women's Winter Track teams just took off from the starting line and are not looking back, kicking off their 2017-2018 season at the Lehigh Season Opener on Friday, Dec 1.

Brad Hackett, the Head Coach of the Muhlenberg Track and Field programs, expressed the importance of the new members that joined the two teams.

"We have a quite talented mixture of freshmen and sophomore," said Hackett. After losing some seniors from last season there were some empty spots that needed to be filled, such as the high jump and long jump positions.

The women's team was lucky and made great additions by adding high jumper Alana Noehrenberg '21, as well as long jumpers Emily Mitchell '21 and Lindsay Press '21. On the men's side, a whopping 10 freshmen have joined the team. Expect to see big finishes out of Jeff Alvarez '21, Greg Shanahan '21 and Jack Weinberger '21.

The program likes to be seen as one unit, rather than two separate teams. Coach Hackett believes that the men's and women's teams are one big team, since they do everything together: they practice together, they lift together and they work together. Although the men's and women's teams also do not compete together, they attend competitions together and are each other's biggest fans.

The program is coming off a successful 2016-17 winter and spring seasons.

"At the National level, last year we had about as good of a season for as long as I have been here. There were quite a few players who just missed making it to the NCAA Championship," said Hackett. However, there were others that did make it and having a record six All-Americans in one season was a big accomplishment for track.

Essentially, the winter and spring seasons are just one big season. The two teams do not train and prepare any differently, besides from the fact that one season is indoors and one is outdoors in the warm weather. The winter season starts in late October and goes until around spring break. The players get a couple of weeks off and then move right outdoors where their spring season begins.

The teams' main focuses for this upcoming season is to get as many players as possible to the NCAA Championship for both indoor and outdoor track. The NCAA takes 15 men and 17 women from indoor track to the NCAA Championship and 21 men and 23 women from outdoor track. There are five athletes who ranked in the top 50 from last year's season in the entire country.

"We have a talented enough team for the men's and women's to place in the top four in the conference, but ultimately we are not quite deep enough yet to win the Conference Championship," stated Hackett.

Even if winning the Conference Championship is a difficult task to complete, the team has very high aspirations this year to get as many members as possible to the NCAA Championship.

The freshmen may bring big results to the table this season, but let us not forget about the sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have had a great deal of success in the past. Students who had significant seasons last year were Anthony Ware '18, who just missed making it to the Indoor NCAA Championship for the 60. Jess Voltaggio '18 and Michael Havkins '18 with their throwing abilities. Anthony Calantoni '18, who did in fact make it to the Indoor NCAA Championship. Distant runner Jamie Pacilio '18, who is focused once again on making it to the NCAA Championship. Runners Anthony Calantoni '18, Mike Bessette '19, and Corey Mullins '19 return after accomplishing being All-Americans in the distance medley relay.

The big picture for all of the Mules in the track program is obvious, make it as far as possible and beat personal records. These feats will all take athletes putting in great amounts of time and effort t pursue getting better. But the hard work is allowed to be fun, as Coach Hackett expressed. "It beats going to work every day. I have never once woken up in the morning and regretted going to work."

FROM **SCOTTY WOOD**
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the three day weekend.

The women's basketball team defended their Scotty Wood Title by beating Notre Dame of Maryland in the first round and Lycoming College in the championship round. Brandi Vallely '18 won her second career Scotty Wood Tournament MVP after setting a tournament record with 23 assists and posting a triple-double in the win over Lycoming. Chelsea Gary '18 was named to the all-tournament team with an impressive two-day performance, including a double-double against Lycoming. This was the women's basketball team's 15th Scotty Wood Tournament Victory.

The men's basketball team came into this year's tournament as the defending champions. They won their first round game against SUNY New Paltz as they tied a school record by making fifteen three pointers. Five Mules players scored in double figures, with Matt Gnias '20 leading the way with sixteen points and nine assists. In the championship round, the Mules took on Misericordia, the defending Mac-Freedom Conference Champions. The Mules narrowly lost to the cougars 104-99 in the highest scoring game in Tournament history. Gnais and JeanLee Baez '18 were named to the all-tournament team.

The wrestling team earned first place out of seven teams in the Scotty Wood Duals, as they won all four of their dual matches to start their season.

The Scotty Wood tournament is an annual reminder of a helping hand who was there for student athletes long before any who call the campus home even knew it existed.

No days off for Muhlenberg Athletics

BY ALEX HOROWITZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Between Muhlenberg College's 22 Varsity sports teams, there is a lot of work done in the athletics office on a year-round basis. Even while the academic year is in session, you will often find student-athletes on campus grinding in the gym, on the practice field, or competing in a games.

But what many people don't recognize is the hard work that occurs within the athletics offices. Led by Athletic Director Corey Goff, the department is consistently striving to reach its initiatives to improve programs. Their hustle is evident during the fall and spring semesters while students are bustling around campus, but this is not just a two-semester job. While students are home for the holidays over winter break, the athletic offices are busy preparing for not one but two upcoming semesters.

Goff, who has served as the Director of Athletics at Muhlenberg since 2012, explained the main initiatives of the athletics department during the winter break period. In general, the department's priorities "change from one year to the next, but this is typically a time for us to catch up on projects plan for spring events, and long term strategic planning work."

As for the main initiatives that will be started this winter, Goff lists a number of plans, including adding a career networking event for student athletes, review of Life Sports Center usage policies, development of new leadership development curriculum for the StepUp Mules program, planning for 'Mule Madness" with colleagues in advancement, collaborate with colleagues in Advancement to investigate viability of Mike Donnelly memorial professional development fund, and complete the pool and recreation locker room enhancements.

While the athletics department is expected to be busy given the revolving cycle of sports each ensuing season, the work of fall sports teams actually continues into the winter months as well. The scheduled season ends in late October, but once the games are completed, the coaching staff is hard at working in recruiting their next freshmen class.

"During the winter break myself and staff are working on completing our 2018 recruiting class," says men's head soccer coach Sean Topping. "Whether that is setting up late visits, interviews and overnight visits once the spring semester starts. We are working with admissions to make sure all application information arrives and hopefully getting the majority of our 2018 class to apply early decision. If needed we will schedule home visits to go sit with recruits and their families to drive home our commitment & interest in them. We will also attend tournaments to continue to watch our prospective student athletes (PSA's) and start making our recruiting list of 2019 PSA's. We will plan out our spring and summer recruiting schedule and also start to work on our spring/summer clinics and camps marketing."

He noted how crucial it was to make a good impression on those current high school seniors, for they are the future of the program. However, he also stressed an importance on the current group of players, as the team uses the winter break to organize the spring season too.

"We will start to plan out our spring season," says Topping. "Training dates, times, and what we will want to work on and accomplish during this deferment. We might work on technical skill aspects of the game, formation, strength & conditioning, team chemistry activities, and leadership exercises. We will also set up our spring scrimmage opportunity and annual alumni game. We will work on alumni initiatives as well."

Megan Patruno, Muhlenberg's Associate Athletic Director, emphasized that the athletics office functions just like any other typical business office.

"When classes are not in session and students are not on campus, it is a great opportunity for our office – just like many other offices – to catch up on other work," said Patruno. "This does include, for example, general housekeeping of our files, brainstorming new ideas and special event planning for our Hall of Fame induction ceremony that happens later in the spring, as well as planning for the Muhlenberg College Golf Classic, which is one of the largest fund raisers for our department. We also have lots of new software programs that the College has introduced or will introduce in the coming months. This is a great time to dive into learning new products."

Sports may not be in session during the month long period that is winter break, but the office remains active all the time. Is there ever time when the office is not running? Of course not, says Patruno.

"We are always busy," she says. "Again, the athletic department works continually during the whole year to support our student-athletes. Whenever there is a break in the academic calendar, our office will 'slow down' from an events perspective. However, the daily work that we do to maintain a positive and equitable learning environment for our student-athletes remains steady."

The Muhlenberg Weekly

SPORTS

Thursday, December 7, 2017

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

New role, same goal

Football promotes Offensive Coordinator Nate Milne to lead the Mules in 2018 and beyond

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

Nate Milne started to think about coaching football after enjoying his own experience at Jamestown High School in Jamestown, New York. Milne explained that he was able to see the impact a coach could make after being a part of a high school football program headed by coaching legend Wally Huckno. "Football gave me confidence when I struggled in my first semester (in college)."

Milne is familiar with the sidelines of a gridiron, having either played or coached college football for 15 seasons, three of those being at Muhlenberg. But 2018 brings along an unfamiliar position he will serve on Scotty Wood Stadium's sidelines. On Monday, Nov. 20, Nate Milne was named the head coach of the Muhlenberg football program after the position became vacant due to the unfortunate passing of previous head coach Mike "Duke" Donnelly.

"Muhlenberg is the right academic fit," Milne said when explaining why he was interested to join the 'Berg coaching staff as the offensive coordinator in 2015. He compared Muhlenberg's principles and values to those of his alma mater, Hobart College. "There is a high caliber degree along with high caliber football."

Milne explained that Coach Donnelly was also a major reason why Milne was interested in a coaching position at Muhlenberg following seven seasons as the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach at fellow Centennial Conference member Susquehanna University.

"We did not need to look any further than Nate Milne to find the absolute best person to be our next head football coach."

"Coach Donnelly has a ton of respect throughout the conference," said Milne. "He was not only a player's coach, but also a coach's coach."

Muhlenberg's athletic staff was confident in Milne taking the reins of the football program.

"We did not post the position so there were no official applicants," said Corey Goff, Athletic Director and former Acting Head Football Coach. "We received, but did not consider, dozens of inquiries about the position by phone and email."

"The past four months have essentially served as an interview for Nate," said Goff. This season, Goff not only worked with Milne in the athletics' office, but Goff coached alongside Milne. "This afforded me the opportunity to observe Coach Milne interacting with student athletes, parents, alumni, opponents, coaches and other members of the Muhlenberg Community in a variety of situations and settings," says Goff. "Overall, the experience was incredibly positive. As the end of the season approached our path became very clear, we did not need to look any further than Nate Milne to find the absolute best person to be our next head football coach."

With all of the time the two spent interacting together, Goff

see **Milne** | page 10

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Year 25 is a slam dunk

By Josh Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

Since 1982, Muhlenberg College has hosted Scotty Wood Weekend every year on the Saturday and Sunday before Thanksgiving. It first started as a four-team men's basketball tournament and has since expanded to a four-team women's basketball tournament in 1993 and an eight-team wrestling tournament that began in 2016 and was renamed the Scotty Wood Duals this year.

The tournament is named after Milton W. "Scotty" Wood and the tournament was started by his son Robert Wood, who hoped to rekindle the relationship between Muhlenberg and his father. Scotty Wood's relationship with Muhlenberg begun in the early 1940s after he begun to serve free meals to the men's basketball team after their practices at the Home Restaurant, one of his two restaurants located on 7th Street in downtown Allentown. The basketball team practiced near Wood's restaurant and when practices ran longer than the hours of the Muhlenberg dining hall, he gave the players a card that could be used to purchase two dinners at his Home Restaurant.

After selling his two restaurants in 1948, Wood brought his hospitality to Muhlenberg in a full-time capacity, taking over the college's food service operation. He later established The Wood Company and expanded his food service operations to Lehigh University as well as other local schools, hospitals and health care facilities.

For his tremendous work both at Muhlenberg and in the Lehigh Valley, Wood received many honorary accolades over the course of his lifetime, including honorary doctorates at Muhlenberg and Delaware Valley College, as well as many entrepreneurship and hospitality awards in the Lehigh Valley. With his strong relationship to Muhlenberg athletics, Muhlenberg decided to name their new athletic stadium after him in 1999 and he was inducted into the Muhlenberg Athletics Hall of Fame in 2002.

Wood passed away on June 18, 2003, leaving behind a tremendous legacy at both Muhlenberg and in the Lehigh Valley. Scotty Wood Weekend is arguably the most publicized athletic event at Muhlenberg. T-shirts are sold to the community and posters and banners line the Life Sports Center and pop-up in other buildings on campus. When addressing team goals, the basketball teams and the wrestling team always state that winning the Scotty Wood Tournament and the Scotty Wood Duals is a top priority.

Once again in 2017 students, alumni, and fans packed the seats of Memorial Hall and the Dietrich Field House to cheer on the Mules. All three programs brought their Scotty Wood Weekend energy to the court and to the mat and each program achieved success over

see **Scotty Wood** | page 11

Women's Basketball

VS

Sat. Dec. 9 at 1:00 pm
Collegeville, PA

Men's Basketball

VS

Sat. Dec. 9 at 3:00 pm
Collegeville, PA

Track and Field

'Fast Times Before Finals' Meet

Sat. Dec. 9
Bethlehem, PA

Inside: Eyes on the prize

Upperclassmen Mules set their eyes on Indoor NCAA Championships. Read more on 11

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

DACA repeal and its effects on Muhlenberg students

read more on page 3

WE DESERVE BETTER
NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL
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Center for Ethics speaker shares experiences and research on Christian Palestinians in Israel to a mixture of applause and pushback.
read more on 4

A&C 5-7
This semester's first mainstage features a Dadaist production about the absurd, greed driven rise to power of a corrupt ascendancy.
read more on 6

OP/ED 8-9
Two students present their different perspectives and reactions to last week's Center for Ethics guest speaker.
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SPORTS 10-12
We highlight the career of Brandi Valley in the first of three spotlight stories on Muhlenberg basketball players to reach 1000 points in 2018.
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Seeing through the haze

One fraternity is charged with hazing – another vows against it

Ian Adler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

The Sigma Phi Epilson house sits vacant and undecorated wihtout its traditional letters on Tuesday afternoon following the fraternity's removal from campus.

By Chloe Gravereaux
Asst. Managing Editor

Last November, allegations of hazing surfaced in the Muhlenberg Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon (Sig Ep). By December, the brothers were charged with violating the social code and anti-hazing policy, and removed from campus until 2021.

"Specifically, the chapter was accused of hazing brothers by paddling them, by having brothers extinguish a fire by spitting mouthfuls of dry rice on it, by instructing new members to sleep at the chapter house and to carry their belongings in backpacks. In addition, the chapter allowed a number of suspended Sigma Phi Epsilon members to participate in these activities," stated Allison Gulati, Dean of Students, who oversaw the investigation.

On Nov. 7, a report was filed alleging Sig Ep of hazing. On Nov. 30, after review by Assistant Dean of Students and Judicial Officer Jane Schubert, they were charged with violating the social code, and on Dec. 7, the Judicial board held a hearing. Sigma Phi Epsilon had already been put on disciplinary charges the year before and revoked their fraternity house. The Judicial Board took this pervious account into consideration.

Although the fraternity brothers and those involved were notified immediately, to prevent interference with the investigation and trial details were not disclosed to the public until Gulati released a student-wide e-mail over winter break.

"We also have to [release information] pretty sensitively when hazing is involved, because one of the most important things to us is protecting our students. So we don't want a student who has reported something to be outed in unnecessary ways, or to be treated inappropriately because they have asked for help or anything like that." said Gulati.

As a result, few have come forward or have been willing to share information on what happened. The silence, however, does not mean the problem isn't there, said Gulati.

"There are other student groups that face hazing issues all the time. Those could be performing arts groups, clubs, athletic teams, other fraternities and sororities," said Gulati, "Hazing is happening on every college campus in America. And so we want students to be aware, based on what occured, what can happen as a result of that and the severity."

Muhlenberg is not the first college, nor is it the last, to encounter student hazing. A study done by the University of Maine estimated that 55 percent of college students experience hazing.

Greek life in Pennsylvania was put on the map last year with the death of Timothy Plaza, a Penn State student who died from injuries resulting from binge-drinking as part of initiation to Beta Theta Pi. In 2013, Psi Delta Psi was banned after the death of pledge Chun "Michael" Deng. Another student died at Lafayette not long after Plaza, although the death was ruled as unrelated to hazing. In the last decade, 33 people in the US have died from hazing-related incidents, according to Hank Nuwer, a professor of journalism at Franklin College who has researched and written extensively about hazing. An article posted by Times magazine posed the question: What can be done?

The fraternity Zeta Beta Tau, which colonized at Muhlenberg in 2015, is one of the first nationally non-pledging, non-hazing greek organizations. The chapter currently has 40

see **Hazing** | page 4

Can 'Berg keep the flu at bay?

By Gregory Kantor
Editor-In-Chief

This year's flu season is shaping up to be among the worst on recent record, with over 100,000 laboratory-confirmed cases as of last week, according to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The dominant strain of this flu season is H3N2, which can cause more severe symptoms and explains the higher than usual incidence rates, says Dr. Chrysan Cronin, Director and Assistant Professor of Public Health.

"In general, we see more hospitalizations and deaths due to flu when H3N2 is dominant," said Cronin. "However, we will need to wait until the season is over to really be able to compare this flu season."

In Lehigh County, the Pennsylvania Department of Health reports nearly 1,200 confirmed cases, good enough for the eighth highest total by county in the Commonwealth. Over the weekend, Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest, a large hospital located in the nearby Allentown suburbs, received national media attention for adding surge tents, part of its strategy to manage the influx of flu patients to their emergency departments.

But here at Muhlenberg, the situation is not quite as dire, at least not yet — since the beginning of the spring semester, the College's Health Center reports that less than 15 students have influenza or an influenza-like illness. With the semester now in its fourth week, and with federal officials warning that the peak of the season has not passed, efforts on campus are focused squarely on prevention.

Similar to years past, cleaning has increased in high-traffic areas across campus, including twice-daily in all dormitory bathrooms and common areas.

"This year we were much more proactive in getting the cleaning operation up and running, and many of the preparations were ready before students returned to campus," said Brynnmarie Dorsey, the Executive

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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CORRECTION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers.

Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition.

However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

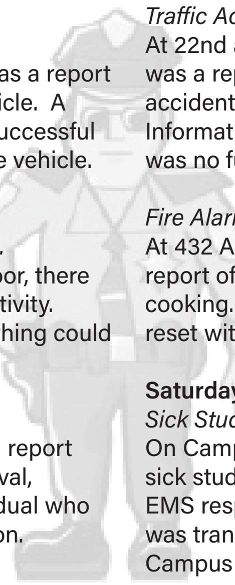
We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment.

We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief.

The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety



Monday, January 29

Check the Welfare - 4:22 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report to locate an individual. Contact was made with the individual, and there was no further incident.

Suspicious Person - 11:39 p.m.
In Egner Memorial Chapel, there was a report of a suspicious person. The area was checked, and the individual could not be located.

Tuesday, January 30

Disabled Vehicle - 5:37 p.m.
At North 23rd Street, there was a report of keys being locked in a vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer was successful in retrieving the keys from the vehicle.

Wednesday, January 31

Suspicious Activity - 12:15 a.m.
In Prosser Annex, Second Floor, there was a report of suspicious activity. Upon the Officer's arrival, nothing could be noted.

Panic Alarm - 7:11 a.m.
In Trexler Library, there was a report of a pushed alarm. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the individual who accidentally pushed the button.

Found Property - 2:17 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a found wallet and cell phone. The items were placed in the lost and found locker.

Thursday, February 1

Suspicious Activity - 3:24 a.m.
On the Back Drive, there was a report of suspicious activity. The individual was identified and spoken to, and there was no further incident.

Lost Property - 8:00 a.m.
On campus, there was a report of a lost wallet and keys.

Suspicious Person - 10:45 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a suspicious person. The individual was identified and spoken to and left the area.

Friday, February 2

Abandon 911 - 2:37 a.m.
In Village 2 at 2263 Turner Street, there was a report of a call from an emergency phone. Upon arrival, no one was in the area.

Traffic Accident - 5:57 p.m.
At 22nd and Chew Streets, there was a report of a motor vehicle accident involving a College vehicle. Information was exchanged, and there was no further incident.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 8:50 p.m.
At 432 Albright Street, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from cooking. The system was silenced and reset with no further incident.

Saturday, February 3

Sick Student - 1:46 p.m.
On Campus, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Lost Property - 1:33 a.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of lost keys.

Disabled Vehicle - 4:58 p.m.
At the Hillside House parking lot, there was a report to jump start a vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer successfully started the vehicle.

Property Damage - 11:39 p.m.
At the President's House on 339 Leh Street, there was a report of a fallen tree branch causing damage to a fence. Barricades were placed, and Plant Operations was notified.

BATTLE OF THE CHEFS

4:30PM - FEBRUARY 20, 2018 - WOOD DINING COMMONS

Mark your calendars for the event you DON'T want to miss!

Follow 'Berg Dining on Facebook and Instagram for updates!

Deserving, determined, and debating

Muhlenberg students detail the limitations of DACA

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the word dreamer has two definitions. The first, "one that dreams." The other describes "one who is unpractical or idealistic." But the term dreamer has taken on a new meaning, one riddled with emotional, political and controversial subtext not so easily explained away by a definition that trivializes those it describes.

One of those people is Armando, a Muhlenberg College student who asked that we not include his last name. Despite his contributions to the college and Allentown community, he has been delegated to the largely anonymous population of immigrants known as Dreamers. For Armando, the Dreamer narrative is problematic; for him, and so many like him, there's a lot more issues behind the term.

"It says that some immigrants are more deserving than other," said Armando. "Questions that focus on Dreamers feed into this narrative of good immigrant versus bad immigrant. The DREAM Act was introduced in 2001 and it's upsetting that we are still debating if it should become law in 2018. The DREAM Act should've been passed years ago and we should be focusing on giving legal status to the people who don't qualify for it."

The people called Dreamers get the all-encompassing nickname from the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act, a piece of legislation introduced but never passed that would provide its recipients a path to citizenship. Beneficiaries of the proposal would have to complete a series of requirements in a span of six years to be granted permanent residency.

Because of the failure to pass the DREAM Act, President Barack Obama introduced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration policy in 2012. DACA shares many similarities with its predecessor, allowing individuals who meet all the requirements a two-year period of deferred action from deportation.

Some of the guidelines for those enrolled in DACA include: came to the United States before their 16th birthday; have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007; are currently in school; have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion, or have served in the military; and have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors.

According to figures from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, close to 800,000 people have been approved for DACA since its inception. However, 689,800 people still had DACA status when President Donald Trump rescinded the policy in September 2017. From those almost 700,000 immigrants, nearly 6,000 are in Pennsylvania alone.

Out of that number, there are some at Muhlenberg.

Armando came to the United States when he was two years old. His journey began with his mother who, in his words, risked it all and gave up her life in Mexico to give her children a better future. He, like his parents, worked various jobs to make ends meet — all while dealing with the frustrations of not having the ability to obtain a driver's license or legal work.

Armando takes classes at Muhlenberg and works to offset the cost of tuition since undocumented immigrants are not eligible for federal aid, whether or not they are a DACA recipient. He hopes to become a lawyer.

And while Armando is involved in the place he's called home for over 20 years, he wants people to recognize the bigger issue.

"I understand that allies want to state our achievements to persuade Americans to support our cause, but I don't think it's helping," said Armando. "Having a high GPA or being highly involved in the Allentown community and school should not matter. We all deserve a path to citizenship. We all deserve to have basic human rights."

Darling Cerna '17 came to the United States with her parents when she was five years old. She found it difficult to adjust to the lifestyle here, made only more difficult because her entire family remained in Guatemala. She's missed the opportunity to spend countless holidays with extended family, many of whom have since passed away, with Cerna unable to say goodbye. While her parents have found it hard to obtain the American dream without the ability to buy a home or take out loans, they sacrificed everything they knew and had to give Cerna and her sister better opportunities.

As a DACA student, it was challenging for Cerna to find a way to pay for a college education. Because of that, she feels like Muhlenberg chose her, not the other way around.

"When you're a DACA student, it's even more difficult to find scholarships and grants that do not involve federal aid," said Cerna. "Muhlenberg was the only school that admitted me due to this reason. Sure, I would've loved to get ten acceptance letters and then pick the school I liked the most, but at the end of the day Muhlenberg was really the right fit for me. They paid for a large majority of my tuition, and I was extremely thankful."

For four years, Cerna took classes and held a work study position. On weekends, she would drive an hour and a half each way to her job back home in New Jersey. After graduation, she got a job as a human resources coordinator for S&S Activewear, helping to facilitate communication between employees and management. She hopes to go back to school for her master's degree in the fall, but with everything happening right now, she's going to work for as long as she can.

For Cerna, she wants those opposed to DACA, and any path for immigrants to obtain legal status, to educate themselves and check their ethics. She wants to remind people that DACA recipients are everywhere.

"They go to school with your children, they go to work with you, they graduate college with you, they shop at the same supermarket as you and dream just as much, if not more."

According to the Pew Research Center, there are approximately 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the United States. With such a small percentage of those people benefitting from DACA before it was rescinded, policies like it still leave behind a majority of undocumented immigrants. While DACA helped Armando secure an education and put him one step closer to becoming a lawyer, it does nothing to help anyone who is ineligible or doesn't fall into the guidelines, like his mother.

"We don't want to leave anyone behind this time," said Armando in a separate interview with the Morning Call.

Armando and Cerna are just two examples of the opportunities that DACA can provide for undocumented immigrants. Without it, they lose the ability to do things like own a car and pay for the insurance or work in the United States, things citizens take for granted every day. For them, and the innumerable other human beings policies like this would help, losing these protections also means forcible deportation from the country that is their home.

"To me, it doesn't make sense to tell someone to go back where they came from, especially when most DACA students, including myself, were only a few years old when they came to this country," said Cerna. "I am 22 years old and I only spent 5 years in Guatemala. If you do the math, that means I have spent 17 years of my life here. I am not an American on paper, but I am more American than anything else."

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NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL
NO BORDERS/NO WALLS/SANCTUARY FOR ALL
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Photo credit for this image and its modified version on the front page: "Philly DACA march" by Joe Piette September 5, 2018

from **Hazing**
page 1

members, four of whom just joined. The incident with Sig Ep hasn't discouraged the brothers from continuing to recruit, said President Matthew Itzkowitz, '19. Rather, as Itzkowitz explains, it makes them proud to be non-pledging.

"When people were rushing us, we would normally tell them that we're not hazing, we're not pledging to begin with," said Itzkowitz, " but we would make sure that they knew that during rush week so that way they didn't have any doubts considering what had happened. They wouldn't have to worry about that."

After a brother died from a hazing incident in 1989, the fraternity at the national level stopped pledging and hazing, which Itzkowitz wanted to emphasize considering the current negativity associated with Greek life.

"I think that fraternities and sororities just get a really negative name in general," said Itzkowitz. " I think that the more positive news that we get out about Greek Life the more the public opinion of it will change. Schools around the nation are just shutting down all greek life, regardless of whether they have or haven't done something wrong so if we could let it be known that there are good organizations out there then I think the ones that are good won't be and shouldn't be punished."

As part of Muhlenberg Greek Life, the brothers need to partake in Philanthropy, which ZBT does through Get On The Ball, a fundraiser that collects donations for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. ZBT also hosts Green Light Go, an event which teaches consent.

Although they are open in discussing their hazing policies, ZBT doesn't discuss the matters with other Greek organizations.

"Hazing and pledging isn't something that we talk to other organizations about, like other fraternities and sororities. I know everyone that's in ZBT knows and is open about the fact that we don't haze or pledge. So if anyone ever asks us they know. Everyone is equally able to talk about that."

Students can report an incident of hazing anonymously on the College's Greek Life page, under Report Hazing. Students can also call Camplus Safety at 484-664-3110.

from **Flu**
page 1

Director of Health and Counseling Services.

Some of the other preparations include various communication efforts through posters and emails about symptoms and strategies to prevent further transmission. The Dean of Students office has also re-opened its "Student Report of Illness" form, last used during the Spring 2017 semester's norovirus outbreak.

"The purpose of the form is to track influenza and gastrointestinal virus activity on campus," said Dorsey. "So if there is an area on campus that has a higher incidence than others, we can target cleaning and prevention activities accordingly."

On college campuses, specifically, the risk of infection is amplified.

"College students live in close quarters, and have a tendency to go to class or to the dining room and other public spaces even when they are sick" said Cronin. "Students who get the flu should heed the advice of the health center and either go home or quarantine themselves so that they do not spread the virus around the campus."

Of particular note for this year is the College's efforts to stress "social isolation" for students who feel sick or have a confirmed case of the flu. According to an email sent to students on Jan. 17, those who think they may have the flu and who cannot go home were instructed to "not attend classes or any public gatherings" and return to normal activities after 24 fever-free hours without medication.

But here at Muhlenberg, the situation is not quite as dire.

"We've provided additional tools and resources to the faculty and staff on how to handle classroom attendance and sick leave policies. We've also tailored messaging to students on this, as well," said Allison Gulati, Dean of Students.

Gulati stressed that prevention efforts began in earnest last semester, with the free flu shot fair in the Brown Hall quad. To date, Health Center nurses have vaccinated approximately 230 students, more than double the usual number, said Dorsey, although this estimate does not account for students who may have received flu shots off campus.

Although H3N2 was included in the vaccine, it mutated during the manufacturing process; however, the vaccine is still recommended for everyone.

"Getting the vaccine does still protect against the other circulating strains and gives some protection against H3N2," said Cronin. "People who are vaccinated generally have less severe cases and recover faster."

"It's not too late to get vaccinated," said Dorsey, who added that the Health Center will continue to offer free flu shots as long as the supply from the Allentown Health Bureau exists.

But despite the increased vaccination efforts, Muhlenberg faces the same challenge that other college campuses struggle with annually — convincing students to get vaccinated. The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases estimates that the average college campus has flu vaccination rates ranging from eight to thirty nine percent.

"The bottom line is that we should all be vaccinated to protect not only ourselves, but others in our community," added Cronin. "And if we do get the flu, we should be vigilant in making sure we do not put others at risk."

Hard pressed but not crushed

Center for Ethics speaker discusses the controversial Israeli occupation of Palestine

By Chloe Gravereaux
Asst. Managing Editor

"It's very difficult for us to discuss Palestine here in the United states," began Dr. Maura Finkelstein, the co-director of Center for Ethics. "This discussion is fraught and uncomfortable, and so we must have it."

On Thursday, Feb. 1, the College hosted Dr. Sa'ed Atshan, a Palestinian Quaker and professor of peace and conflict studies at Swarthmore College, who gave a talk titled Palestinian Christians: Past, Present and Future, in Miller Forum, Moyer hall at 7:00 p.m.

Atshan's speech, which lasted approximately 30 minutes, presented Israel as an occupying force on dwindling Palestinian land. His talk was sprinkled with encouraging applause and hearty laughter from the audience. It delved into the experiences of the 20 percent of people in the region that identify as Palestinian Christians, including himself. On large screens behind him, Atshan contrasted images of war-torn Gaza and refugee camps, with the Quaker boarding school which he attended, his cousins' toddlers in santa hats and Bethlehem (the Middle-Eastern city, not the one here in the Lehigh Valley) decorated for Christmas. He then described the intense forms of oppression in the West Bank; from families being forced to demolish their own homes to avoid bulldozing costs, to Israeli military brutality and military blockades that impede movement.

"One of the most painful images in East Jerusalem is when Palestinian families bulldoze their own homes," said Atshan. "Once your home is slated for demolition, if you don't demolish it yourself, you are given the bill and you have to pay for the security and the infrastructure for the destruction of your home. Most Palestinians cannot afford these and they will go to prison if they are unable to pay the fines. So you will literally see father, mother and children chipping away at their own house after they have received this demolition order."

Additionally, Atshan explained that there are over 500 checkpoints scattered over an area 14 percent the size of New Jersey. A trip to school or work that would normally take 15 minutes to travel could take as long as six hours, and can at times be deadly.

"Many Palestinian women have died giving birth at these checkpoints," said Atshan. "[Laborers will] start lining up at three in the morning so that they could get to work at nine in the morning. Imagine each and every day having to go through this, being confined like chicken, or like cattle, every single day."

Atshan also touched on a feeling of abandonment by American Christians, who assume that Palestinians are all Muslim and have sided with Israel in the conflict.

He also showcased Palestinian Christian resistance who he admires, including a woman whose house was surrounded on all three sides by the wall and whose children could see a sniper from their window. He then showed his cousin's engagement photos.

"Despite all of this madness, life goes on." said Atshan, "There is resilience and creativity and agency and resistance. That is really what we need to support."

He then ended by reading a biblical passage commonly quoted by Palestinian Christians.

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed. Perplexed, but not in despair. Persecuted, but not abandoned. Struck down but not destroyed," he said, "Thank you so much."

Then, the questions began.

At the start of the question and answer session, students were shy to come forward, but by the time they were dismissed half an hour later there was a line of almost ten students waiting to talk. Atshan thanked everyone who asked him a question and answered each one with cited sources.

Yael Green '19 brought up an experience of her friend in the Israeli army.

"I just wanted to thank you for coming out today and sharing your story. I know you talked a little bit about the checkpoint. I have a friend in the Israeli army and she actually served in the checkpoint area and she actually stopped an ambulance that was trying to come into Israel that had hundreds of bombs in it that they were trying to use as terrorist attacks. And I just wanted to know what your response was to the fact that checkpoints actually have helped save hundreds, thousands of lives... and the terrorist rate has gone down significantly."

After suggesting that she look at the UN Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs website, which contains information on checkpoints, including how most separate Palestinians from their lands, Asthan then remarked that he often gets questions like this. But he clarified that he came to campus to share his experiences.

"When I represent myself, that's all I can represent. Is myself. But as I represent myself, I am put in this position where [I'm asked] 'what about the other side?' and what about everything else you haven't represented? Where is the other side? And, I have to admit, that that sometimes can be dehumanizing, because I think every voice deserves to stand alone, on its own terms, and every set of experiences is valid in its own way."

This response received applause from some audience members.

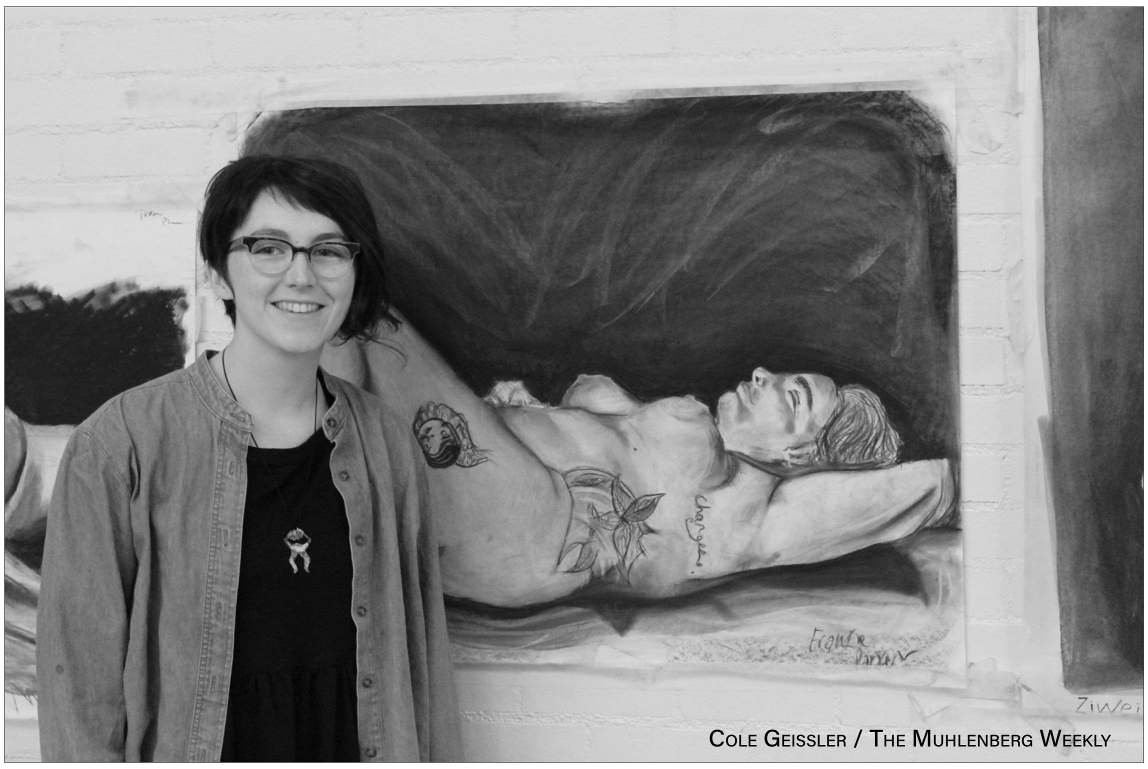
Another student came to the mic, apologizing, saying she never meant to — nor would anyone at Muhlenberg — intend to dehumanize him.

Some gave Atshan a standing ovation. Others were audible in their contestment. Read more with student opinions on the event on page 9.

"In order to attain the impossible, one must attempt the absurd."
—Miguel de Cervantes

Featured Artist: Frankie Parker

In the first iteration of a new column showcasing campus creators, this sophomore takes center stage



Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

By Ellen Powers
Contributing Writer

For the introduction of the Artist of the Week, the column will be featuring Frankie Parker, a visual artist in the class of 2020.

Frankie Parker is an English major from Haddon Township, New Jersey. She also has minors in Art and Spanish. During her time at Muhlenberg so far, Frankie has taken the art courses Printmaking I, Drawing from Nature and Drawing Studio.

Art has been a part of Frankie's life for as long as she can remember. Her mother is an artist, so she was exposed to art at a very young age. Frankie was not initially planning on pursuing art in college, but that changed in high school when she began taking more art classes and became close with her art teachers. This encouraged her to decide to pursue art in college.

In addition to drawing, the medium of art Frankie specializes in is mixed media. Mixed media is essentially collaging, but the images are layered with paint or marker on top. Frankie typically makes her mixed media pieces more abstract in nature.

So far, Frankie has enjoyed her experience with art at Muhlenberg. She likes being able to learn how to draw better than before. Also, she noted that it was interesting working in a small department; sometimes there are people not actually in the art department taking art classes, which changes the experience in that class.

Frankie is involved in several activities at Muhlenberg in addition to her coursework. She runs on the track and cross-country teams, and she is one of the art editors for Muses, Muhlenberg's literary magazine. Frankie's other hobbies include running, playing bass guitar, cooking and writing. Her interest in creative writing has grown a lot since coming to Muhlenberg and taking an Introduction to Creative Nonfiction class. Some of Frankie's favorite classes that she has taken at Muhlenberg include her Printmaking course, an Art History course, an Anthropology course and her English courses.

Art has been a part of Frankie's life for as long as she can remember. Her mother is an artist, so she was exposed to art at a very young age.

Frankie's final project from her Drawing Studio course is currently hanging in Muhlenberg's Center for the Arts, but this isn't the first time her art has been recognized. In high school, Frankie's art was hung up at the State House in Trenton, New Jersey as part of the Youth Art Month Exhibit. Frankie's art was also previously hung up in a local art show.

For her final project in her Drawing Studio class, Frankie drew a portrait of a model. The portrait was drawn using the mediums of charcoal and conte crayon. Conte crayon is a medium similar to charcoal, but it also has oil that helps with spreading it in the drawing. Interestingly, Frankie was one of only a few students to incorporate the model's tattoos in her portrait. Frankie explained that this was partially because of the angle at which she was sitting to draw the portrait, but she also added that her portrait wasn't turning out as "interesting" as she would have liked, so she decided to include them to add a more interesting touch to her portrait.

In regards to her life after Muhlenberg, Frankie is not quite sure what she wants to do for a career. She is currently looking at internships at several art museums, although she isn't sure if that is where she wants to make her career. Frankie is also considering going into art therapy. As she explained, she "wants to help people, but art is something I can do on my own." Even if she doesn't end up doing art as her career, Frankie would still like to keep art within her reach, since it has played a major role in her world for so long.

Freedom to Play: Spotlighting ArtCo

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Muhlenberg is well known for its ever-present abundance of student-led creative ensembles. In one weekend, the event-savvy student might attend an a capella concert, a jazz band showcase and an improv comedy show, clapping and jiving and laughing well into the early hours of the morning. Though each of these performance types serves to entertain its audience, one ensemble directly implicates its audience in its performances, transforming those who are normally meant to passively watch and listen into active members of – and, indeed, makers of – the show itself.

This performance ensemble is ArtCo, a devised theatre troupe that prides itself on its inability to be pinned down to any one established art form. On Jan. 31, the group held an open workshop, which was followed by auditions on Feb. 4. Attendees at both of these events were instructed to prepare and bring nothing but themselves, a testament to the ensemble's focus on collaborative brainstorming and organically conceived ideas. One such attendee, Gwen Wilkie '20, was struck by the carefree, creative atmosphere surrounding the workshop.

"There was absolutely no pressure coming from anyone to be anything," said Wilkie. "It was just a really fun time where we got to create something with other people ... ArtCo is unique at Muhlenberg because there is absolutely nothing like it. No one knows what it is, even ArtCo itself isn't sure quite what it is, but that doesn't get in the way of them being very them. There is not another group that is a mix of devised theatre and performance art on campus."

Elena Nahrmann '19, the group's Performance Ensemble Committee Representative, likewise asserts that, though ArtCo shares some qualities with the other ensembles, its methods and results are quite distinct.

"I think ArtCo, like every other performance ensemble, is a great way to take a break from the stress of school and support your peers in their work," Nahrmann said. "Although our shows often involve humor, it isn't our sole focus like the comedy groups. We also have freer rein with what we choose to work with for source material."

This sense of freedom seems to describe ArtCo as a whole, encompassing its commitment to experimentation and reinvention. Member Bennett Urian '20, who joined the group in the fall of 2017, describes what he and Nahrmann refer to as "source material" with broad strokes full of room for new and exciting possibilities.

"The creative process behind what we do always starts with source material. This can range from avant-garde instrumentals to children's book illustrations to squirrel ballet," said Urian. "Sometimes we come up with the source material ourselves through free-writes, which is a concept Elena [Nahrmann] brought to the group that started a lot of our ideas. Either way, art has to start from something, and we use this source material to rev up our thinking."

[ArtCo's] essence is personalized, generated directly from the minds of each member and fostered by an electric community of fellow out-of-the-box thinkers.

This changeable aspect of the group's work is treasured by Nahrmann.

"My favorite part of ArtCo is the opportunity we have to play," Nahrmann said. "We are the directors, the writers and the actors in all of our shows so whatever we make is entirely our own. But this also means that we can't rely on someone else to do the work for us ... We often try to come up with a theme or some source material at the beginning of the semester. Then throughout our rehearsals

see ArtCo page 7

UBU ROI

An exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the upcoming production

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

By Ethan Forrer
Staff Writer

If I had to describe what I predict the upcoming *Ubu Roi*, or King Ubu for those without Google Translate, I wouldn't, and that would be the best way to describe it. As an absurdist production, it is not meant as a work to be predicted, but rather one which disregards the logic of the time. This style of theatre, known as Dadaism, emerged in the early 1900s. Almost every scene in this play builds on the one before, escalating the craziness like the set's impossible staircase, always finding more ways to undermine your expectations. An important aspect of this play to understand is that it is also a very dark commentary on the suffocating greedy quest for power. To make a theatrical analogy: it's like the chronicle of a more successful Macbeth—a Macbeth wearing a mask, but one with a very large nose.

You may find this play to be evocative of our current political climate, and this is done very much on purpose. In the official statement released with this play, Professor Francine Roussel, director, compares King Ubu's reign over Poland to the current U.S. Administration. "I personally think that we need a show like this to start a dialogue," said Gabi Adamo '18, who plays Mother Ubu, Ubu Roi's partner in crime. Adamo continues on to emphasize the fact that this play was written over 100 years ago and so, while it is political, it isn't a specific enough script to really take a literal stance on what is occurring right now. " ... It's not that if you're pro-Trump then don't come see this show. [The show] is creating a dialogue of the actual leadership choices that a dictator would make in these circumstances."

This play is not just another anti-Trump message: it brings issues of greed and corruption to the forefront of people's minds, issues that have been around for as long as we can remember. "This play is also a testament of what power does to people," Mike Poyntz '20, a member of the unusually active ensemble, explains. "You can make connections to different oppressive policies that all presidents have made . . . There are some decisions in here that you can connect to all leaders across the world, including our own previous presidents."

The character of King Ubu is one that everyone can find a real life example of, whether it be President Trump or any other political figure that someone disagrees with. It's with this in mind that I would like to stress that the intentions of the cast and crew should not stop you from coming to this production because you will find at least one of King Ubu's escapades to tie you into the illogical world of the play.

With the political disclaimers out of the way, here's a detailed analysis predicting all the reasons you should come see this play. If you're like me, it's been quite a while since you've seen a theatrical production that actually embraces the fictional realm that it resides in, disposing of this world's laws of physics as unnecessary baggage, and wallows in its own disregard for the mental capacity of the mere mortals who watch it. Sure, absurdism isn't for everyone, but from the energy and the enjoyment that I saw from cast during a rehearsal, I am confident that throughout the full show even the most juvenile or mature audience members will be constantly entertained, and when entertainment is done right like it is here, is there really anything else that you need?

In my experience, one of the most common pitfalls that satirical plays can be afflicted by is the concept of meta-acting. When performing in a way that is meant to mimic and mock another form of art, people usually have a tendency to act to the role instead of the action as is typically preferred. This creates a veil that can be hidden behind by discounting all flaws with the production as intentional commentaries on the common issues with whatever is being parodied.

However, this is not a problem that we'll be seeing in *Ubu Roi*, not under the watchful eye of the director or the experienced, veteran actor cast. Just because the play is fantastically absurdist doesn't mean that the acting should break away from the realism we've come to expect from all modern day theater. This of course adds to the humor of the play; for instance, the only thing funnier than an extravagant buffoon waving around a toilet plunger is when he's a merciless dictator wielding his malevolent king's scepter.

I think my favorite aspect of this play can be summed up by a something I overheard Roussel, the director, saying to one of the cast members during the rehearsal: "In this play, we don't question anything." This is counter-intuitive because in theater, much like any other academic work of interpretation, it is considered natural to question everything that is written down for it must, of course, hold some importance. What this little quote highlights is the extreme "roll with the punches" style that is present in many scenes in the play. Relying heavily on casting multiple roles for each actor, the play implements this unusual pillow-stuffing format where one actor can play different characters, each with a different exaggerated body type depending on the placement of the pillow. This becomes quite important when, over a matter of seconds all within the same scene, characters can be cut down dead, then the actor rolls off the stage and runs to the side of the set before re-entering as an entirely new character as if none of that double-casting shenanigans had occurred at all. I find this play to be theater at its free-est and finest, truly a show most anyone can enjoy and remain entertained by.

Ubu Roi will be reigning over the black box theater from Wednesday Feb. 21 until that following Sunday, with a panel discussion of Muhlenberg professors from every discipline talking about the meeting of politics and entertainment from 2 to 3:15 in the studio theater on Friday Feb. 23.

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FROM ArtCo
PAGE 5

Then throughout our rehearsals we do a series of exercises based around sound or movement to create small pieces which eventually get organized into a show."

Fall 2017's show, "Tadpoles," was the product of a semester-long exploration of these small pieces, which, once patterns were spotted and ideas were organized, eventually became a highly individualized, audience-centric experience. Urian recalls the evolution from free-write to performance, a process that continued even as the show was put into motion.

"One specific free-write we did was a eulogy to a lost object, and almost everyone wrote about some sentimental object or concept they lost while growing up, and this was the direction we went in for the show," said Urian. "We first had the audience write their own little eulogy to a lost object, and then they went on a scavenger hunt of sorts to find all the members of ArtCo (each one of us was a frog). Since there was not enough time for everyone to see each vignette (and some vignettes changed with the time of the show), the show was a different experience for each person, and this was a sort of representation of our own unique experiences and losses. This ended with a monologue of rejecting sentimentality and then desiring it, and then we did a play that Genevieve [Wall '18] wrote when she was in elementary school. And then there was a dance party."

Photo Courtesy of Demi Demetriades

Previous displays like 2016's "Threaded" create high expectations for this year's upcoming productions.

As Wilkie states, there is perhaps no way to describe ArtCo better than to say that they're very them — their essence is personalized, generated directly from the minds of each member and fostered by an electric community of fellow out-of-the-box thinkers. One thing's for sure: this group is ready to take on the new year equipped with new ideas, new members and maybe even a dance party or two. Be on the lookout for some ArtCo "happenings" popping up around campus. You never know when you too could become a part of the story.

Movement of Expression: introducing Muhlenberg's Afropop

By Lauren Mazur
A&C Editor

To allow the world to move you—to feel, hear, and drown you—is to relinquish a sense of self to the music. Music, being the essence (and perhaps interpretation) of the world around us, can oftentimes serve as a means of communication regarding the self and physical world. One of these forms is that of the rhythmic movement of the body.

Starting this semester, a new dance ensemble is taking the stage. I had the privilege to interview Grace Duah '20 and was able to learn a bit more regarding the ensemble's start and current goals.

"We are celebrating African heritage and bringing it to Muhlenberg College ... there is a significant African population and ... we felt it necessary to have a means to celebrate the heritage of dance in Africa."

The ensemble itself is titled Afropop, which will be covering various genres within African dance—forming around a range from more traditional themes to more pop-based elements.

"Afropop is a dance group that celebrates the different music styles in an African view. A lot of people don't know that there are different dance styles in Africa... like acro (which is dance that focuses on flexibility)... there's ballerinas, there's hip-hop dancers, there's like slow dancers... as well as more traditional dancing. [Afropop] highlights all of the different styles."

I asked Duah to further discuss Afropop's origin and means of starting this semester:

"Initially, Kate [Ekanem '21], an international from Nigeria, had the idea and then shared it with me...and we, along with Wilhelmina [Minnie '19], proposed and then got approved as a club last December."

Afropop seems like an exciting new ensemble that I look forward to seeing perform on stage. As Duah further describes:

"[To have] different cultures and different styles to showcase on campus is really appropriate and essential to the growth of the campus in general."

If you are interested in joining, please contact Grace Duah for further information; rehearsals will happen Thursdays at around ten in the evening.

"It's open to everyone and if anyone's interested in joining, please contact one of us," said Duah.

In print we trust

Thirty years ago, the United States Supreme Court ruled that a school sponsoring a newspaper has the right to censor its content.

The case in question, *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*, involved a high school principal who had censored student articles on parental divorce and student pregnancy under the argument that the material would be "unsuitable" for underclassman. The Supreme Court ultimately decided that the school had every right to censor an organization that it funded.

The Weekly has long been the independent student voice of the College, but as one of the many clubs that receives a budget derived from the student activities fee, we recognize the potential risk in printing this editorial, a risk established by the Court's ruling.

Although we have yet to encounter any particular content which we feel would risk censorship, we have certainly run stories in the last year on topics that do not necessarily paint the College in the best light. We've led the coverage of a robbery on campus, the firing of a security company over alleged racial slurs, and multiple student protests, among others. In short, we have tackled difficult topics, but we are far from publishing the Pentagon Papers.

Our goal for this semester, though, is to take one step closer, to push our boundaries a little more between what should be reported and what needs to be reported. And, as always, we will be as fair and accurate as possible, even in our exploration of subjects that are highly sensitive, and we will push ourselves to dig deeper in our reporting.

Bearing in mind the Hazelwood case, we nevertheless feel confident about this renewed journalistic vigor because it is an essential part of the liberal arts mission: to produce and encourage intelligent, free-thinking students unafraid to challenge the status quo. Any attempt to stifle coverage of vital information would be antithetical to this idea.

We view the responsibility to exercise the freedom of the press guaranteed by the first amendment similarly to that of your right to vote — something we continually implore our readers to do. Any type of inaction diminishes the influence of the freedoms we should be fighting to protect — now more than ever.

Ultimately, we feel the question boils down to this: if we neglect our responsibility as student journalists privileged by both the first amendment and our position at a liberal arts school, would we be risking the erosion of our essential freedoms?

We would argue yes.

From the Editorial Board of
The Muhlenberg Weekly

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

A letter to my brother on Aziz Ansari:

By Michelle Rajan
Contributing Writer

Dear Jona,

You're thirteen years old as I write this letter. Now, I don't want to be the one to get you to think about anything other than "Fortnite" but, one day, you'll have serious feelings about a girl. And one day, you'll play the role of Aziz Ansari.

You've never seen Master of None, but you know who Aziz is — remember when I started screaming because a brown guy won an award at the Golden Globes? That was Aziz. Do you remember when, a couple days later, I started screaming because a brown guy violated a woman? Yeah... that was Aziz, too.

Last September, a young woman was thrilled to be going on a date with one of her favorite comedians, Aziz Ansari. After dinner, they went to his house and, only minutes after arriving, he began making moves that made her uncomfortable. She gave physical cues of her discomfort, but Aziz persisted anyway.

When word of this spread, people were quick to label him as a "sexual predator" with the likes of Harvey Weinstein and Louis C.K. They scrutinized his character, shocked to find that a self-identified feminist and advocate for people of color wasn't as "woke" as he made himself appear.

They completely missed the point.

Here's the thing: Aziz is guilty of sexual misconduct, but that doesn't make him a sexual predator. His behavior that night mirrors that of many men. The rapist kind? No... your kind. He's funny. He's cute. He's Indian. He's just like you. He's been taught to persist in times of struggle and even in the presence of an uncomfortable girl. Just like you.

We've seen countless movies together with the same plot: Guy pursues girl. Girl doesn't like guy. Guy tries to convince girl. Girl is unsure of her feelings. Guy persists. They fall in love. And as much as I want to villainize that whole sequence, even I'm guilty of sobbing over how romantic it is. But when this carries over into the real world, it's a plot that never works in a sexual context.

Aziz thought everything that happened after dinner was consensual. Sure, he may have noticed a few mixed signals. So all he had to do was follow the movie plot: pursue her, convince her a little more, and, above all, keep persisting... right?

But Jona, if you were approaching a traffic signal that's switching from yellow to red to green in a matter of seconds, you wouldn't floor it and speed through the intersection. You'd hesitate. You'd question what's going on. You'd stop.

You will encounter women who are comfortable with anything. You will encounter women who need time. You will encounter women with a multitude of preferences and when you begin making your moves, you must figure out what she wants — without being a mind reader. It sounds like an impossible task, but there's a simple solution: talk to her.

If Aziz had questioned the mixed signals, stopped to ask if she was comfortable, he would have avoided the irreparable aftermath. It's not enough to just "not be a rapist" in situations like this. Aziz's story is the example we needed: you could write a book called Modern Romance, wear a Time's Up pin, seem like the world's most non-threatening guy and still find yourself stumbling into a case of sexual misconduct. Aziz Ansari's story is a unique one for the #MeToo movement — the chances of you acting like Larry Nassar are slim but the chances of you following in Aziz's footsteps are dangerously high.

Jona, if you never learn the appropriate etiquette, then you'll never know when you're stepping out of line. You're never going to hear the rules from our parents, since they usually pretend sex doesn't exist. I understand how this lack of communication makes the idea of talking to a woman about consent even more unfamiliar and daunting. But this is where you get to prove that you're not Aziz.

Who knows, you might even score a second date.

Lots of love,
Thatha

• • • • • • • •

Going mad with power

Will Wamser
THE Op/Ed Editor

Before I address the issues regarding this topic, I feel it necessary to give a little background about myself. I'm a country boy who's trying to make it in the big city. Back home I was a little fish in a big pond, now I'm in the ocean and, guess what, I don't know how to swim. So, for those of you who don't know me, leave. Now. If you do know me that means you don't like me which means you are a hater. And do you know what we do to haters here at The Muhlenberg Weekly? Nothing, not yet. But I've just gone from being a contributing writer to the section editor for Op/Ed, and I'm planning on going mad with power. I haven't quite gone mad with power just yet, but if things go my way, all this power will go straight to my head.

Now, you must be thinking "Will, I love your work and congratulations on the new position, but if you are already in the position why not just go mad with power now? Why wait?" First off, thank you for your congratulations, that's kind of you. And to answer your question, I've already taken a sip from the goblet that will eventually make me drunk with power. This paper never had columns before, but I've abused a little bit of power and now there are two columns. Count them, two. Another reason I am waiting is because I'm still not sure what power I have. I know I can create columns, and I've already abused that, but I'm not sure what other responsibilities I have. So, I'm waiting a little bit, just until I actually know what I'm doing and how I can take advantage of it.

But, dear reader, if I may be honest with you, the real reason I'm waiting to go mad with power is because I'm scared. That's right, a jock like me is scared. Laugh at Mr. Muscles, a.k.a me, if you want but it's the truth. I'm scared that I might remember some of the little people, or worse yet that I might remember how they helped me to get to where I am today. Ever since I was a boy frolicking through the one corn field behind my house I've dreamed of ruling with an iron fist. But now as I am given the opportunity of a lifetime, the chance to begin my tyrannical reign over the entire opinion and editorial section of a small liberal arts college newspaper, I'm scared I don't have it in me. What if I accidentally don't scream at Janet for doing nothing wrong? Or if I forget to use my power to force Ken give me a massage? What if I never bribe the editor-in-chief to keep my arrests off the books? I don't know that I would be able to live with myself, much less forgive myself.

But, it's like I always say, the word "impossible" is just "I'm possible" hiding in negativity. And you know what, I am possible! If I don't abuse my power, no one will. So, if you need me, I'm going to show someone my tiny, spindly, little knees, because I'm the section editor of Op/Ed at The Weekly darn it and no one can stop me. If you want to thank me for this inspiring tale, hit me up on facebook. If you don't, I don't care because to me everyone is my employee and I cannot be touched, for as of right now, I've officially gone mad with power.

Point / Counterpoint

Responding to the Center for Ethics talk “Palestinian Christians: Past Present and Future”

The need for open-mindedness in the climate surrounding Dr. Atshan’s visit

Jouman Barakat
Contributing Writer

Sa’ed Atshan presented an incredibly well-researched, eloquent and necessary talk on Feb. 1. As the only Palestinian on campus, no words would serve justice to my feelings of gratefulness and thankfulness to Dr. Atshan, Dr. Finkelstein and the Center for Ethics at Muhlenberg. The reason as to why it was imperative to give Dr. Atshan the floor to speak about his story is that there is an overwhelming support of Zionism on this campus. It was a beneficial learning opportunity not only for the people who weren’t very knowledgeable about the topic, but also the people who fall on the opposite end of the spectrum. With that being said, I personally felt very disrespected and also disappointed with the way that the students handled his talk. It felt as if some students joined the event not to learn and ask discussion-provoking questions, but rather to dehumanize and belittle the points from Dr. Atshan’s own experiences.

Therefore, I think Muhlenberg still has a lot of work to do in this regard, and that speakers addressing similar issues and taking the same standpoints as Dr. Atshan are crucial to the student body. The reason I say that a similar viewpoint is needed is because we already have the opposing one on campus, in large numbers. In the two years that I’ve been on campus, it’s been incredibly rare, almost never, that I hear any discussion about Palestine (or in other words, the “other” side, to speak broadly). Considering the fact that we’re at a liberal arts college, and for many other reasons, the lack of understanding and knowledge towards the Palestinian-Israeli conflict needs to change.

One thing that also made me feel very uncomfortable was the fact that there were numerous requests to bring a speaker from the opposing perspective of Dr. Atshan’s to address the student body. To reiterate what Dr. Atshan said, nobody ever asks to hear homophobic perspectives, or white supremacists, or anti-Semitic perspectives, so why should there be chance for any anti-Palestine oppressor to speak?

As some may call my beliefs anti-Semitic and extremist, I think it is important to clarify a few things while highlighting significant parts of Dr. Atshan’s speech.

Firstly: to be pro-Palestinian and anti-Zionism is not to be anti-Semitic, but it is rather to be supportive for basic human rights for Palestinians (the victims, the oppressed) and against the occupation (Israel, the oppressors). I would be dumbfounded to hear a claim stating that Israel hasn’t been occupying Palestine, or that Palestine doesn’t exist. These beliefs require a basic history lesson before starting an intelligent conversation/discussion about the conflict.

Secondly, as Dr. Atshan stated, a Jewish state is not an ideal place to live if you are somebody that does not identify to be Jewish. Equally, an Islamic state is not an ideal place to live if you are somebody that does not identify to be Muslim. This does not take away from the need for a Jewish homeland, or a Muslim homeland, or a Christian homeland, for all three faiths are equal in importance and deserve the right of respect and existence.

> In the two years that I’ve been on campus, it’s been incredibly rare, almost never, that I hear any discussion about Palestine (or in other words, the “other” side, to speak broadly). Considering the fact that we’re at a liberal arts college, and for many other reasons, the lack of understanding and knowledge towards the Palestinian-Israeli conflict needs to change.

The reality of things is this: Palestine is an occupied land. Jewish people need and quite frankly, truly deserve their own homeland and their basic human rights, but not at the expense of Palestinian lives — or any lives for that matter. As a populous that went through innumerable accounts of trauma, religious cleansing, murder, rape, torture, suffering, and so many more indescribable events, Jewish people’s sense of understanding for the Palestinian occupation and their ongoing ethnic cleansing should accompany basic knowledge. After all, Dr. Atshan’s talk was part of the “Troubling Truth” series, and we need to accept it as it is.

With all of this being said, I encourage everybody reading this to reach out to me to have a discussion about all of this. The least any of us could do is be open-minded and up for coffee and a chat. A discussion’s purpose is not to convince, but rather to educate.

Address both sides! On the discussion of Israeli and Palestinian conflict

Jake Gordon
Contributing Writer

The Miller Forum was buzzing with energy as the as the clock hit 7 p.m. and as the speaker, Dr. Sa’ed Atshan, was introduced to present his talk, “Palestinian Christians: Past, Present, and Future.” I am passionate about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and therefore was deeply interested in the talk. While I anticipated a discussion of controversial topics like the occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. With Dr. Atshan’s impressive track record and reputation of academic excellence (being a Harvard PhD. and Swarthmore Professor), I also expected his talk would foster a balanced and productive conversation about the controversial issue.

> It is important that each side is given the opportunity to present their viewpoints candidly and openly, which is why I value Dr. Atshan’s perspective.

Dr. Atshan’s first few slides described his church in the West Bank, with pictures of his family, friends, and teachers from the Quaker high school he attended in Ramallah, and a brief historical outline of the Palestinian Christian traditions and the community’s ties to the land historically known as Palestine and presently Israel. This was all new information to me and to hear the story of his people was fascinating.

But within a few minutes, the narrative transitioned from historical and informational to a highly politically charged nationalist and one-sided presentation of the humanitarian struggle that “all” of the Palestinian people face living in the occupied territory, and an examination of the atrocities that are allegedly being committed by the State of Israel. Dr. Atshan showed distressing maps, charts, and even graphic images of suffering Palestinians individuals. He rattled off facts that described the many human rights violations committed by Israel against these people, and painted a picture of Israel as a monstrous colonial oppressor that is brutalizing an indigenous population through unimaginable tactics. Any person with a moral and ethical conscious would have been moved by his words, which he presented in an articulate, relatable, and methodical way with doses of comic relief.

Yet, I felt duped. I was eager to challenge him with questions that referenced my understanding of the very complicated geo-political situation. I expected that he would at least have the courtesy to talk in a professional way about a different perspective.

Dr. Atshan, however, seemed to have no interest in a dialogue or acknowledgement of the Israeli side, where millions of citizens live in constant fear of terrorism and violence. Though he condemned violence from organizations like Hamas, Dr. Atshan suggested that terrorism is a byproduct of the suffocating occupation. He seemed sympathetic toward Hamas and refused to hold them accountable for the suffering of Gazans. When a student asked him about the possibility that the Israel’s border wall saved lives, he belittled her question with a joke that drew laughs and painted her as uneducated. When a student requested that he acknowledge that there is another side to the conflict for the uninformed in the room, he responded that to ask this of him was “dehumanizing.”

Leaving this talk, many students and faculty attending that came in uninformed on one of the most complex political conflicts were stripped of the ability to make an informed opinion. If we are going to talk about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on campus it is essential to provide a holistic lens. Inviting a speaker that refuses to recognize any other side than his own (to an impressionable audience) is irresponsible.

It is important that each side is given the opportunity to present their viewpoints candidly and openly, which is why I value Dr. Atshan’s perspective. But I’m troubled that he was invited as part of a lecture series titled ‘Troubling Truths,’ inherently implying that the words spoken must be factual and uncontested. After all, they are about “truths,” right? To categorically assume that everything Dr. Atshan said is true and without recognizing the other side of the conflict may leave, students with the idea that there is no other side to the issue.

I am grateful that we are having this conversation at Muhlenberg, it is an important one. But in the spirit of intellectual curiosity and Muhlenberg’s mission “to develop independent critical thinkers who are intellectually agile” and “characterized by a zest for reasoned and civil debate” let’s approach this more that mission in mind. In the days since the talk, the administration has been helpful and receptive to this, which I appreciate and feel it shows that they care about the dialogue too. A liberal arts approach to the Israeli and Palestinian conflict can only be achieved if we bring in more speakers willing to examine other angles in this multifaceted subject.

FROM BIRDS
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members of my family have had season tickets for over 40 years. We have supported the Eagles through great times and tough times and the support has never wavered. This was just an amazing ending to an even better season and I just look forward to the parade to day," said Cooperman.

This win marked the Eagles first ever Super Bowl victory and their first NFL title since their 1960 NFL championship win over the Green Bay Packers. Despite the Philadelphia Phillies' World Series win in 2008, recent times have not been too kind to Philadelphia professional sports teams. The 76ers and Flyers have struggled for decades, failing to bring a title of their own to the 'City of Brotherly Love' since 1983 and 1975, respectively.

Jack Mangas '20 is another Muhlenberg student hailing from the Philadelphia area that was thrilled about the Eagles victory. In the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl, he remained confident in his team, and his belief in his team was ultimately rewarded.

"I honestly feel like I haven't fully processed [the victory] yet. I've spent so much time thinking about what I would do if the Eagles ever actually won the Super Bowl, and how great that it would be, that it still feels like a dream and not something that's really happened. I'm obviously incredibly happy, but my strongest emotion right now is the pride in the team, the city and the fans. They came together despite losing some of their most important pieces, and still managed to pull it off when everyone doubted them. It's an amazing feeling," said Mangas.

With the parade set to take place today in Philadelphia, many Muhlenberg students will make the short commute to Broad Street to celebrate with their families, with their friends and with their city. This is a great moment not only for Philadelphians, but for the state of Pennsylvania as well. It's an incredible time to be an Eagles fan at Muhlenberg College. Fly Eagles Fly.

Behind the Mules' Gains

By Steven Shoemaker
Staff Writer

Constructed in 1982 and renovated in 2004, the Life Sports Center is frequently used by many students on Muhlenberg's campus. Specifically, Muhlenberg's 22 sports teams spend hours on end in the LSC training for their respective seasons.

Muhlenberg's student-athletes are not only conditioned and practiced by their team's coaches, but the College also has four strength and conditioning coaches that help athletes prepare for game days. The staff is headed by Director of Strength and Conditioning Darin Thomas, who is aided by Troy Moyer, Anna-Kate "Tattie" DePaolo and Deon Edwards.

Darin Thomas has been fully committed to Muhlenberg's athletes for the past six years. During his 24 years of being a collegiate strength and conditioning coach, Thomas has learned about the various aspects that contributes to an athlete's success.

Prior to coming to Muhlenberg, Thomas graduated from State University of New York at Cortland with a master's degree in physical education. After graduating, he took his knowledge to Windsor Central School in New York. He was an assistant football and Strength and Conditioning Coach. Thomas also worked at the University of Richmond for nine years as the Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach and at the University of Notre Dame in the Physical Education Department for seven years.

Thomas believes that certain key factors contribute to an athlete's success, among them: strength training, conditioning, nutrition, cardiovascular exercise, flexibility, weight management, endurance and injury prevention. An important aspect of Thomas' job is to incorporate different workouts for each team, as every team needs to focus on specific muscle groups.

"It's very important for the athletes to get individual attention," said Thomas.

The advantage of having four coaches is that teams will get more one on one attention and teams are able to incorporate in more individualized programs.

"We have a great staff for Division III sports. I could not ask for anything more. I have the best job out of anyone on campus," said Thomas.

Troy Moyer, one of the assistant coaches, graduated from Sacred Heart University with a bachelor's in exercise science and a focus in strength and conditioning. Moyer took human physiology and nutrition classes, which were all tailored around how to work with the human body relating to sports. During this time shadowing different conditioning coaches, he learned all of the proper techniques and how to create a program in the weight room. Specifically, Moyer learned how to tailor the work outs to certain sports, so they will know what to focus on specifically.

"When we find out what team we are working with we do lots of research, so that we can know what movements they do and what body parts need to be focused on" said Moyer.

For example, tennis players will work more on exercises that consist of lateral movement, quick steps and arm strength. With all sports, the women have more flexibility, therefore working with the men on flexibility is crucial. On the other hand, women are more prone to ACL injuries, so they will work more on certain injury prevention techniques. "You hear more about ACL injuries today, than you ever did before" explained Moyer.

Experience of the athlete is taken into consideration as well when creating workouts. The coaches are careful and cognisant that some freshmen may not be as experienced with the exercises they are expected to complete in college athletics. This reduces them coming across a potential injury.

Moyer stressed the importance of utilizing the weight room and the strength and conditioning coaches. "Not many teams are going to win if they are not the most physically fit and in the best shape possible," said Moyer. Moyer loves his position here at Muhlenberg and specifically appreciates the close relationships that he establishes with the athletes."This job combines the two things I love the most, lacrosse and strength and conditioning," explained Moyer.

Anna-Kate "Tattie" DePaolo is another staff member in the athletic Strength and Conditioning staff.. After graduating in 2014 from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania with an exercise science major, DePaolo found her place in Muhlenberg's community where she has been working for the past four years.

"I enjoy meeting different student-athletes and being a part of their experience. Our Athletic Department and facilities are awesome to work in and I really appreciate how Darin allows me to do my own thing."

The final member of the team is Deon Edwards. Graduating from the University of Coastal Carolina in 2015, Edwards utilizes his exercise and sports science major daily. Edwards played football in college for three years, so he combines his strength and conditioning skills along with his knowledge of football with the football team. Edwards has worked at Muhlenberg for the past 10 months.

Although has not been here very long, Edwards does not hesitate in sharing the appreciation that he has for his job. "I couldn't have asked for a better job right out of college. I have a great supervisor in Darin and I have great co-workers" said Edwards.

Something that is particularly interesting is how Muhlenberg's Strength and Conditioning Coaches are not permitted to work with the athletes over the summer. Despite this, in their free time they will still research different exercises and create workouts for when the 22 varsity sports teams start up again. Director Darin Thomas discussed the six goals to success that are vital in Muhlenberg's Strength and Conditioning program: 1) Decrease chance of injuries, 2) Making athletes stronger, 3) Improve movement skills, 4) Improving body composition, such as education and nutrition, 5) Improve confidence, 6) Improve game day performance.

The four Strength and Conditioning Coaches dedication to Muhlenberg's athletes and community is remarkable. As any coach and player would attest, their programs would not have achieve the success they do if not for the contributions of Troy Moyer and the three other members of the athletic training staff.

Photo courtesy of Libby Juliano

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the game. Both her mother and father played basketball. Dad Art was inducted into the College of St. Joseph hall of fame and mom Judy would run the clock or take down the book at her daughters' games. In second grade, her parents installed a backyard court for the three daughters who followed in their footsteps.

"We had lines painted and everything so it was an awesome place to practice," said Vallely. "I remember our dad taking us out there to practice, and my sisters still give me a hard time because they weren't allowed to block my shot until I got taller."

That is where her basketball training really began – at home, against two opponents older, taller and more skilled than her, with a hall of famer for a coach. Her father would give the girls drills and workouts, like 25 layups on the right then on the left then down the middle. Day after day, year after year, Vallely would come home, often from a practice or game of her own, and play one-on-one against Danielle or Nicole, which fostered a bit of a sibling rivalry.

"I think growing up with two sisters that played made me really learn the game," said Vallely. "Especially going against older, taller, more experienced players like them helped me once I started playing at my own age level."

For Vallely, Art was both dad and coach. He was by her side, coaching her recreational, travel, AAU and summer ball teams until she started middle school. Towards the end of his time coaching her, Art led Vallely's "fifth grade ragtag summer ball team" to victory in a game they "had no business winning." According to Vallely, he was a great basketball player – playing up until a few years ago, and still joining beach or church leagues for pickup – and it shows in his coaching.

"I try to emulate his passing when I play," said Vallely. "Even though I never saw him play in college, obviously, watching him play later on, he has such a good court sense and I think that's a major take away from him."

As Vallely grew older, her teams and coaches changed. In her freshman year at Oley Valley High School, she went from one-on-ones on the backyard court to capturing the district title for the Lynx in Hershey arena. Despite a missed season from tearing her anterior cruciate ligament, Vallely became a four-year letterwinner, served as captain for three years and set the school record for career points with 1,551. She was arguably the best player the town had ever seen.

By then, she may have been the best player the Vallely family had ever seen. Danielle ended her competitive basketball career after playing one year at Cedarville University, and Nicole chose soccer and played all four years at Mt. Saint Mary's University. After early marks of success caught the attention of head coach Ron Rohn, Brandi Vallely turned in her blue Oley Valley uniform for a red Muhlenberg jersey.

Vallely learned early on that being the best does not come without a price. After months of preparation and practice, and trying to fit in as a freshman on a majority-upperclassmen team, Vallely broke her foot about a week before games started – and a week before she would officially begin her college basketball career.

"It was really devastating for me because I came to the school for the sport and I just wanted to play," said Vallely. "It was a really tough time for me because I had missed a season in high school and now I'd have to miss another season."

Vallely was limited to five games due to her injury, as well as being a freshman on a team with seven record-breaking upperclassmen who led the Mules to a Centennial Conference Championship and into the NCAA tournament. Nonetheless, she made her comeback during her sophomore year - a comeback that was much bigger than anyone had imagined.

Vallely recorded a triple-double (13 points, 15 assists, 10 rebounds) against Moravian College in her first career start. She scored in the double digits in all but three games during her sophomore season. She broke a 10-year-old record for assists in a season by 99, compiling an astounding 263 helpers in 28 games.

By the end of the season, Vallely ranked first in the Centennial Conference in assists and steals, and in the top 10 in free-throw percentage, scoring, field-goal percentage and rebounds. She led Division III in assists and ranked 17th in steals. She was the NCAA statistical champion for assists per game, out of the three divisions. Not surprisingly, Vallely was awarded the Weikert Award for Muhlenberg's sophomore athlete of the year and was named Lehigh Valley Player of the Year.

Her success continued into her junior season. Despite a minor injury that forced her to sit in the beginning of the season yet again, Vallely took control of Muhlenberg's all-time assists record and left many people wondering if anyone could stop her rise to the top.

Now, close to the conclusion of her final season, stopping Brandi Vallely seems almost impossible. On Jan. 6, Vallely's nine assists against Washington College earned her sole possession of the Centennial Conference all-time assists record, a feat that took her 45 fewer games to achieve than the previous record holder. With three games left and under 70 assists separating her from the now second-highest number, her spot looks secure for some time.

On Jan. 23, within reach of a valuable milestone, Vallely sits in the locker focused on "trusting our stuff," her favorite advice from Rohn. Art and Judy Vallely sit in Memorial Hall. They have beat their own daughter to the gym, eagerly waiting on the sidelines hours before the game begins, ready to watch their youngest daughter make history. Art may be a hall-of-famer but tonight he is the dad of one of Muhlenberg women's basketball's best players.

Eight minutes and 22 seconds after draining a three pointer on the first possession of the game, with just 15 seconds ticked off the clock, Brandi Vallely steps to the foul line. With no points but plenty of assists between then and this moment, she plants her feet, dribbles three times, spins the ball between her palms and shoots. The ball slides through the net and Rohn immediately signals a timeout. Teammate and roommate Christina Manning shakes her shoulders and the allotted 30 seconds should give number 11 plenty of time to celebrate becoming the 11th player in Muhlenberg women's basketball history to reach 1,000 points.

A young Brandi Vallely sits on the bleachers in a small-town gymnasium. She ignores the game unfolding before her and flips to the next page of her Nancy Drew book. Nancy Drew is a game-changer – a headstrong girl who gets harder to beat with each case she solves. She is the best at what she does.

In a little over a decade, Vallely will be the same, a player in sole possession of record after record, both at Muhlenberg and in the conference. She has continued her father's legacy, being the best at what she does.

Mules on the rise in McLean's first season

By Josh Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

October 16, 2017, marked a new era for the Muhlenberg wrestling program. After the unexpected resignation of head coach Sean Lally in late September of 2017, Muhlenberg hired an accomplished wrestling alumnus Jason McLean as their new head coach.

Despite being hired less than a month before the season started, McLean was prepared to step in his new role and lead the talented and up and coming wrestling program to new heights for the coming season. At the beginning of the season, McLean described the team as "young but seasoned" and had stated how essential it was to "make it known to the Centennial Conference and Region that we won't be at the bottom anymore."

So far this season the Mules have lived up to their coaches prediction.

They have earned many accomplishments, which include going 4-0 at the Scotty Wood Duels, winning against two Centennial Conference opponents — including ending a sixteen year losing streak against Ursinus — staying competitive in many duels against talented conference foes, and having many individual wrestlers defeat difficult opponents during their bouts.

Heading toward the Centennial Conference playoffs, McLean has praised the team's growth and work ethic over the season and notes that the win over Ursinus was a major highlight for this season.

"We have grown so much as a team and a program. Obviously beating Ursinus for the first time in 16 years stands out but these guys are right at the verge of being highly successful," said McLean. "Even when disappointed, we have not faltered in our work ethic and determination. Everyone is in for the long haul and end game."

After McLean was hired he said that the preparation process was going to be similar to what it was in previous years because "wrestling is wrestling."

"Intensity, organization, game planning, and working towards micro goals, as well as fine tuning individuals strong points are a focus. All things considered, we may have intensified the overall process," he added.

Sure enough, this intensified process has remained a constant throughout the season and heading into the Centennial Conference playoffs.

McLean has realized that preparing for a successful season is a long-term process and understands that their will be ups and downs throughout the season. He has prepared his wrestlers for both the physical and mental aspects of the sport and has commended his wrestlers for their hard work throughout the season.

"It's important to remember that the college wrestling season is extremely long, physical, and arduous," said McLean. "I'd liken it to a multi-day contest like a bike race or a grueling decathlon. There are going to be good days and bad days. Your going to feel horrible more than you feel great."

"We have to prepare for all that both mentally and physically. The mind has to say 'yes' and 'go' when the body says 'absolutely not.' These guys are running, lifting, drilling, and beating up on each other on a daily basis," McLean continued. "Even with a day off here and there, their minds still need to be in it. The mental part is what differentiates the highly successful from the not."

With the playoffs in the horizon, the team's preparation will not change significantly, however focusing on a wrestler's individual needs are important. "We also have to focus on guys individual needs. If we need a guy to bump up, maybe we put him with a heavier teammate. If a guy needs to work his conditioning, then focus on that," he added.

Over the next five weeks, the Mules have lofty goals and realize that ending the season on a high note helps the program out in the future. McLean remarks that the team has goals for individual wrestlers and for the program as a whole, remarking that the team must "finish strong in dual meets and send our seniors off the right way as well set the bar for next season."

The path to a strong finish starts Saturday, Feb. 9 when the Mules compete in the Centennial Conference Championships in Lexington, Virginia.

"Individually, we need to put some guys on the podium and Centennials and NCAA Regionals. Once, again what happens over the next 5 weeks or so sets the tone for next season and the future of the Muhlenberg Wrestling Program," said McLean. "Our goals are high. When we attain those, we will set some that are higher."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Coming up this week in

SPORTS

Men's/Women's Basketball

M vs G

Feb. 8/10 at 7:00 pm/2:00 pm
Gettysburg, PA

Track and Field

NYU Invitational: The Armory

Fri. Feb. 9
New York, NY

Wrestling

Centennial Conference Championships

Sat. Feb. 10
Lexington, VA

Women's Basketball

M vs

Wed. Feb. 14 at 6:00 pm
Memorial Hall

Men's Basketball

M vs

Wed. Feb. 14 at 8:00 pm
Memorial Hall

Keckler bumps up to Division I

By Max Shapiro
Senior Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Alexa Keckler addresses her former team during her final season as the head coach of the Mules.

The women's volleyball program received some surprising and somewhat bittersweet news last week as head coach Alex Keckler resigned from her position.

After eight years as head volleyball coach at Muhlenberg, she stepped down to make the move up to the Division I, and become the head coach for Lehigh University.

"I would like to thank Corey Goff for his support and encouragement throughout this process and throughout my tenure," said Keckler of her time at Muhlenberg. "I would also like to thank President John Williams and Dean Allison Gulati for their professional and personal support."

Keckler took charge of the program in 2010 after completing five seasons as head coach of Centennial Conference rival Gettysburg, where she built up a solid record of 96-55, along with a sparkling 40-10 conference record.

Throughout her tenure at Muhlenberg, Keckler had her program thriving year in and year out. She established the Mules as a perennial contender in the Centennial Conference, as she led the the team to the conference tournament in four of the last five seasons.

Keckler also holds the title of winningest coach in Muhlenberg program history, with a 141-96 record.

Her ability to wildly improve both her players and team became part of her winning culture. During a rocky 2010 campaign, when Keckler inherited the program, the Mules finished dead last in the Centennial Conference and won just six games. Yet three years later, the 2013 squad racked up 20 victories and reached the conference title match. The following year, they reached the championship stage again amidst a record setting season that included wins in 25 matches, along with a school record 13 game winning streak.

Under Keckler, the Mules received votes in the national poll for the first time ever, along with boasting a roster that included the program's first All-American in 10 years.

"I will be forever grateful to Muhlenberg College for the opportunity to lead the volleyball program for the last eight seasons," said Keckler. "I am sad to leave such wonderful young ladies and such an amazing institution, but I am excited to begin the next chapter in my career."

Despite her departure, Keckler leaves the program in solid shape. Next fall the team will return its entire roster, after going 24-6 without a single senior on the team. The women earned votes in the national poll, along with receiving an NCAA regional ranking of fifth, the team's highest in program history.

"It's hard for us to see a coach that we all liked and respected leave the program, but we are all excited for her opportunity at Lehigh," said Tara Register '20.

Laura Boll '20 echoed Register's sentiments.

"The team is really excited for Coach Keckler and her amazing opportunity. We know that she is going to do great things at Lehigh," said Boll. "Although we are sad to see her leave, we're looking forward to the spring season and the new experiences it has in store for us."

In the upcoming months, the Athletic Department will conduct a nationwide search for the next coach — no small task.

Earning a Grand: Brandi Vallely

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

A young girl sits on the bleachers in a small-town gymnasium. The squeak of sneakers twisting on vinyl flooring and the repetitive whump-whump-whump of a basketball making its way down the court fill her ears. Not yet tall enough to shoot on a regulation-height basket, Brandi Vallely flips the page of her Nancy Drew book, far more interested in the teenage sleuth's quest to catch the practical joker wreaking havoc on a college basketball team than the game 10 feet in front of her.

Vallely spent a majority of her childhood at her sisters' games, especially because Danielle and Nicole Vallely played for both their school teams and Amateur Athletic Union basketball. The youngest Vallely played as well, joining the Oley Valley Youth League in kindergarten. But with both fewer games and inches than her siblings, Vallely was content with a book on the wooden bleachers over a ball on the hardwood floor—at least as a child.

Born into a basketball family, Vallely's life revolved around

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Bird fans' spirits soar

By Alex Horowitz
Sports Editor

The Super Bowl is debatably the biggest championship game in professional sports. At Muhlenberg, this year's title game held extra weight. Eastern Pennsylvania's local team, the Philadelphia Eagles, were playing in Super Bowl LII vs. the New England Patriots.

Because of the proximity to campus and large population from the Philadelphia area, the Eagles are an extremely popular team among staff and students on the Muhlenberg campus, as well as those in the Muhlenberg community.

Anticipation for this game was felt within "the Muhlenbubble" in the days leading up to matchup. Despite posting a stellar 13-3 regular season record in 2017, the Eagles entered the Super Bowl as heavy underdogs against the Patriots, one of the greatest professional sports franchises of the 21st century. After being the underdog in all three of their playoff games this year, the Eagles actually embraced the idea of the "underdog" because of an injury to their starting quarterback just before the playoffs started. It became common to see fans and players alike adorned in dog masks, to further welcome the underdog mentality.

Many Eagles fans on campus had the opportunity to travel home to watch an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with their family and friends. After three plus hours of back-and-forth football and one of the greatest and most closely contested Super Bowls of all time, Philadelphia came away with a stunning 41-33 victory. Within minutes of the game's conclusion, fireworks could be heard from the snowy and icy streets of Allentown.

Mike Cooperman '19, a lifelong Eagles fan, was fortunate enough to watch the game back home in southern New Jersey, with his family full of fans bleeding green and white.

"When the final Hail Mary hit the ground, I just looked at my brother and we just started yelling and jumping around my living room. I've been an Eagles fan for as long as I've been alive and

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An exclusive look at the

Master Plan

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Gennaro Cerminara's performance at the Centennial Conference Championship meet headlines a successful day for the Mules

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The Spirit of Dance

Between
If the ove fits
Stre ng
On th ecipice
Side By
It Happe y Once... Yesterday and Tomorrow
Wi ow's P menade II

Come join the masters in their dances of a lifetime. Muhlenberg College presents Master Choreographers at its finest—students and faculty alike perform their interpretations of life and nature through dance.

Read more on 6

Photo Courtesy of Matthew Wright

Deciding the debate: Center for Ethics speaker selection

By Chloe Gravereaux
Asst. Managing Editor

The Trouble with Truth is not that no one believes it- but that we all believe different versions.

The Muhlenberg Center for Ethics, whose goal is to promote reflection and discussion on individual moral responsibilities, each year pairs with Dana scholars — one of the scholars programs at Muhlenberg — and faculty in all departments to develop a program of speakers whose talks follow a collaborative theme. This year their speakers focused on Troubling Truth, or as Dr. Lora Taub-Pervizpour, co-Director of the program Associate Dean of Digital Learning put it, upsetting our notions of our perceived reality, or truth.

"It is not the aim of the program to present any truths — the speakers were not selected, that is, to profess a truth," said Taub. "It is the aim ... to bring to campus a series of speakers who help us 'trouble' truths that are often unreflected upon and taken for granted as truths. Indeed, the purpose of this theme has been to cultivate the habits of critical inquiry that are central to a liberal arts education. To take the title of the program literally is to misinterpret its meaning."

> **"It is not the aim of the program to present any truths — the speakers were not selected, that is, to profess a truth," said Taub.**

The series kicked off this fall with William Mazzarella, who asked "Why is Trump so enjoyable?" and Janaya Khan, founder of Black Lives Matter Canada, both of whom packed the auditoriums to the point of overflow. Susan Stryker, the founder of transgender studies, spoke the

SEE **SPEAKERS** PAGE 3

Stranger danger on campus

Church's recruitment tactics unnerve students

By Ali Watson
Senior Staff Writer

"Do you know God the Mother?"

Two women approached a student on Feb. 7 and asked her this question in Seegers Union. Although the student, who will remain anonymous due to safety and privacy concerns, made it clear she was not interested in engaging in a conversation, the women "would not go away" and were incredibly persistent in asking for the student's email address.

The student found the conversation "weird" and felt "targeted" because she was sitting alone.

The student went to Campus Safety after seeing a viral tweet that has been circulated nationwide, claiming the group is a front for sex trafficking. However, there is currently no concrete evidence to support that this group is directly involved in human trafficking or that they are stockpiling weapons.

World Mission Society Church of God, aka God the Mother, is a South Korean based church that has congregations across the east coast. The church, established in 1964, claims to be a Christian non-denominational church. According to People magazine and NBC's Ronan Farrow, ex-members claim the church acts like a cult, a claim that the church denies.

> **"Campus Safety first became aware of this activity when notified by a student the afternoon of February 9th," said Brian Fidati, Director of Campus Safety.**

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers.

Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition.

However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment.

We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief.

The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, February 5

Injured Student - 12:29 p.m.
On campus, there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Tuesday, February 6

Harassment - 12:01 a.m.
On campus, there was a report of harassment by communication. Allentown Police Department also responded and took a report.

Suspicious Activity - 11:29 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of suspicious activity. Upon arrival, the individual was identified and spoken to, and there was no further incident.

Wednesday, February 7

Parking - 8:45 a.m.
At the 26th and Chew Streets Parking Lot, there was a report of an illegally parked vehicle with unpaid parking tickets. The vehicle was booted by a Campus Safety Officer, and the boot was later removed.

Harassment - 3:38 p.m.
On campus, there was a report of harassment. The Dean of Students office was notified, and the investigation is to continue.

Suspicious Activity - 8:28 p.m.
In the Seegers Union Light Lounge, there was a report of suspicious activity. The investigation is to continue.

Thursday, February 8

Theft - 3:00 p.m.
At Plant Operations, there was a report of a theft of an infrared camera. The investigation is to continue.

Friday, February 9

Vandalism - 9:30 p.m.
In Taylor Hall, there was a report of vandalism. Punctures holes were found in a wall. There are no suspects at this time.

Vandalism - 11:24 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, first floor, there was a report of vandalism to a bathroom stall door. There are no suspects at this time.

Saturday, February 10

Check the Welfare - 10:18 a.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report to locate a student. Contact was made, and there is no further incident at this time.

Theft - 11:00 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a theft of money. There are no suspects at this time.

Vandalism - 8:00 p.m.
At the Multicultural Center on 2252 Chew Street, there was a report of vandalism to a banner. The investigation is to continue.

Sunday, February 11

Property Damage - 9:30 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of property damage, causing damage to drywall. Plant Operations was notified to repair the damage.

Medical Transport - 11:38 a.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Student Health Services notified, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Disabled Vehicle - 11:35 p.m.
In the Taylor Hall Lot, there was a report to jump start a vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer successfully jump started the vehicle.

BATTLE OF THE CHEFS

4:30PM - FEBRUARY 20, 2018 - WOOD DINING COMMONS

Mark your calendars for the event you DON'T want to miss!

Follow 'Berg Dining on Facebook and Instagram for updates!

FROM **MOTHER** PAGE 1

"Campus Safety first became aware of this activity when notified by a student the afternoon of February 9th," said Brian Fidati, Director of Campus Safety. "The student reported that the interaction with the group members occurred the evening of February 7th"

On Feb. 10, an email was sent to Muhlenberg students regarding an "Unwelcome Solicitation on Campus." The group reportedly responsible for these approaching students on our campus is the World Mission Society Church of God.

"Since the student message was sent, Campus Safety has heard from several more students that reported contact with group members shortly after returning from winter break, or approximately the third week of January," said Fidati.

The incidents have been followed up on by Campus Safety and they have conducted their own investigation, including interviewing students, scholars and law enforcement agencies (including a specialist at the Department for Homeland Security).

So far, none of the interactions on Muhlenberg's campus have been violent or aggressive and have all happened in Seegers Union.

"This group failed to secure the appropriate approvals for religious solicitation from the Office of the Chaplain and therefore is not permitted on Campus," Fidati clarified.

"If Campus Safety becomes aware of the presence of group members on campus and officers make contact with them, the members' information will be gathered and members will be notified in writing that they are not allowed on Campus," said Fidati.

Typically the members will approach students, attempt to have a conversation with them and then ask for their contact information. Fidati recommends that students refrain from having conversations with the group and furthermore are not obligated to share their information with strangers, including their full name, phone numbers or email addresses.

The group aims to recruit individuals and convince them to join their organization, which has been described by several sources — including NBC News, clergymen from other denominations and law enforcement officials — as a cult.

Anyone who has been approached by the group is strongly encouraged to speak with Campus Safety to report the incident.

FROM **SPEAKERS** PAGE 1

following week on her research. Also on the docket was Stephen Prothero, who discussed Religion and Politics, Achy Obejas, who read from her novel on Cuba, along with a common hour performance of Dreamscape. The first two speakers this semester included Dr. Sa'ed Atshan, whose talk on Palestinian Christians stirred conversation, as 30 percent of the College's students are Jewish, and Elaine McMillion Sheldon, who showcased her latest documentary on the heroin crisis.

Dana scholars, as part of the program, provide a majority of the student input in deciding on the next year's topic. Jonathan Walker '18, one of the scholars, was involved in the development of this year's theme. This current program is far from its original draft, which was titled the Trivialization of Truth, explained Walker.

After submitting the finalized draft, Walker left for summer vacation under the impression that the topic would change minimally from there.

"I got to campus in the fall and they had the posters up for 'Troubling Truth.' I didn't know this, but this is part of what they do," said Walker. "I thought the Dana students come up with a topic, and they just use that to come up with speakers. What happens is we give them a topic how we want, then they workshop it how the directors want to shape the program."

After the Dana scholars propose a theme, then the faculty directors take on the actual program — responsibilities shared this year by Taub and Dr. Maura Finkelstein, who then revise the proposal and reach out to all disciplines. They then suggested and selected speakers based on availability and affordability.

To get as many faculty involved as possible, the original theme needed to be broadened, explained Taub.

> **"I had suggested [Shapiro and Peterson] because I thought they might bring a different perspective on the theme. It would still be speaking to something very relevant to the idea of Troubling Truth," said Walker.**

"It was a process of engaging with what the Dana scholars proposed and trying to imagine it on a larger scale that is more inclusive, potentially, for a variety of faculty who we want to connect their courses up to it," said Taub. "So, for example, Media and Communication faculty were quite interested in The Trivialization of Truth because it connects to a number of courses that were already examining the rise of fake news. But we were also interested in faculty from other diverse disciplines being able to find a way into this question. And we thought that the particular focus on the Trivialization of Truth was more narrow, and that Troubling Truth could encompass Trivialization of Truth but didn't stop there."

They strive to retain as much as they can from the original proposal, added Finkelstein.

"It was a really collaborative process of thinking about what's at the heart of the questions that the Dana scholar proposal was putting forward," said Finkelstein, "not just at the language that's in the title and the abstract can open up a larger conversation."

Walker believes, though, that students should be more involved in the selection of speakers, which the Center is working on improving. Walker had returned in the fall and suggested additional speakers. He was interested in bringing in Ben Shapiro, a conservative commentator and podcaster, or Jordan Peterson, a Canadian clinical psychologist.

"I had suggested [Shapiro and Peterson] because I thought they might bring a different perspective on the theme. It would still be speaking to something very relevant to the idea of Troubling Truth, but they would kind of bring a different perspective," said Walker. "Some of them, I guess, would be considered slightly more conservative-leaning just as an interesting contrast to see what someone on the other side might have to offer to that discussion of Troubling Truth."

Taub explained that they did not have the resources to accommodate these speakers, since a college visit rarely requires just an hour on campus, but instead includes meals, class visits, public relations, and travel costs.

"The [Center for Ethics] budget is limited and a speaker like Ben Shapiro is out of reach for us on those terms alone," said Taub. "I shared this with Jonathan, as well as explaining that the Center for Ethics does not select speakers on the basis of their ideology. I did suggest Jonathan consider other funding sources at the College that interested students might explore to support bringing speakers to campus. Finally, once a program is established and speakers are invited, contracts signed, etc., we cannot easily add further speakers."

In preparation for next year, the Center's final event is a student reflection group, organized by Rachel Liberty '18. Students are encouraged to reach out to her, as the date has not been scheduled as of the time of print.

Students can also bring in a speaker sponsored by their club through 25Live, after receiving approval from Seegers Union and/ or Student activities, and organizing contacts, budget, payment, security and facility.

Who is holding the camera?

An award-winning documentarian explores truth in front of and behind the lens

BY CHLOE GRAVEREAUX
ASST. MANAGING EDITOR

Academy Award-nominated Elaine McMillion Sheldon shared her latest documentary in Miller Forum, Moyer Hall on Monday, Feb. 13, as part of the Center For Ethics Troubling Truth program.

"Heroin(e)," McMillion's most recent documentary, follows three women dealing with the heroin crisis in their West Virginia hometown. McMillion followed Jan Rader, a fire chief, on her overdose calls, Judge Patricia Keller to Drug Court, where she talks to those arrested for minor heroin-related crimes that are sent to rehabilitate and finally Necia Freeman, who drives around town delivering supplies to addicted prostitutes on the street and taking addicts to rehabilitation centers. The documentary is currently available on Netflix and runs 39 minutes.

"What [my crew and I] were trying to do is to show those human faces and stories and the resilience behind the grim statistics that headlines often focus on," said McMillion, "and just show that complex reality on the ground."

McMillion grew up in Logan, West Virginia, the daughter of a coal miner.

"[Logan] was a place where art was a class you took in school, and something for people that had more money and time on their hands than a coal miner's daughter," said McMillion. "But journalism was something tangible for me. When I saw my local journalists in action ... I could actually comprehend what they were doing in a way that was benefitting society, and that was a direct way to contribute to society as a storyteller, and that's my driving force today."

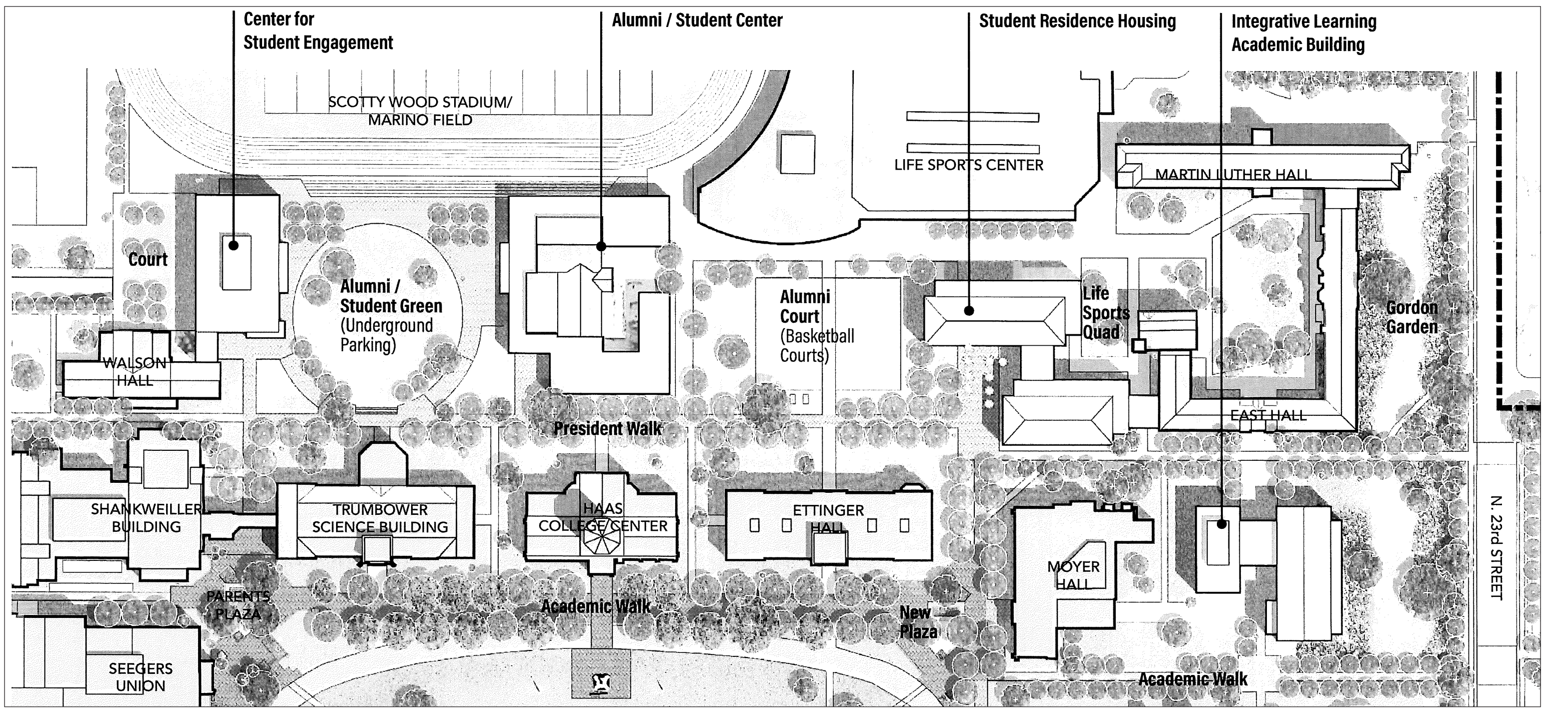
As someone from the area McMillion is well aware of how outsiders perceive her town and spent most of her child and adult life reconciling those differences.

"Despite what the media tells you," said McMillion, "Appalachia isn't the American other, a place of exotic backwardness; but it is full of contradictions, like the rest of America. Appalachia can be a place of hopelessness or full of hope, depending which direction you point your camera."

McMillion's challenge she said — speaking back to the Center for Ethics theme — is finding truth, because there are so many versions.

She also shared snippets from her other works, including "Hollow," a choose-your-own adventure-style documentary where McMillion trained locals to shoot their own footage, and her PBS Frontline documentary on coal miners.

"I think it's really important to empower the people who live and breathe these stories to tell their own stories. Yes, I am a documentary filmmaker and I love documenting life, but I also love seeing what other people come out on the other side with," said McMillion. "When it's an insider holding the camera with the power, it's now a tool to use against corruption, it's a tool to use to help with the environment. I think it's really important to note the power of who's holding the camera."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Integrative Learning Academic Building
SCOTTY WOOD STADIUM/ MARINO FIELD
LIFE SPORTS CENTER
MARTIN LUTHER HALL
Court
Alumni / Student Green (Underground Parking)
Alumni Court (Basketball Courts)
Life Sports Quad
Gordon Garden
WALSON HALL
EAST HALL
President Walk
SHANKWEILLER BUILDING
TRUMBOWER SCIENCE BUILDING
HAAS COLLEGE CENTER
ETTINGER HALL
MOYER HALL
N. 23rd STREET
PARENTS PLAZA
Academic Walk
New Plaza
SEEGERS UNION
Academic Walk

A year in the making, ten years out: the Master Plan

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

For many who live and work at Muhlenberg there is a laundry list of improvements they would want to make to the current campus. These kinds of lists and other suggestions have gone into what has ultimately become the Muhlenberg Master Plan, a proposal a little over a year in the making that was revealed in January.

The proposed renovations to campus are set in three different phases, culminating in completion in roughly ten years. The first of these phases would be completed in the next two to three years, meaning that current freshmen and sophomores may see changes before they graduate.

Some of these first phase projects include a renovation of Prosser Hall and the lower level of Seegers Union, as well as the beginning of two large-scale construction projects, including another academic building behind Moyer Hall. The proposed building is described in the plan as an “Integrative Learning Academic Building” and is intended to further combine technology and the classroom.

The next of the large-scale projects proposed in phase one is the building of a new upperclassmen dorm. This apartment-style dorm with retail spaces on the ground floor will replace the student parking lots next to Trexler Library. A parking deck will replace the spaces lost to construction. President John Williams explained that the retail space will likely include a cafe and may also be the new home for the book store.

The Master Plan’s second phase is proposed to start and be completed within the next four to six years and is the largest of the three phases. This phase includes the proposed renovation of Walson Hall, an addition to Trexler Library as well as some larger scale projects like the relocation of the tennis courts and Plant Operations facilities, the building of a new theater and an underground parking garage.

The new theater is to be built into the hillside next to the Sigma Phi Epsilon house. Williams said that the hope is to better integrate the Muhlenberg campus with Cedar Beach Park, with this theater being a part of that. It will include a large window along the back wall behind the stage overlooking the park. There will also be walking trails added along the hill making the park more accessible to students.

The current site of Plant Operations is proposed to become another student center with a large green space. Beneath the green space will be the new home to the aforementioned underground parking garage — in order to create this space, the current faculty and staff parking will be eliminated, with the underground garage replacing it and adding an additional 40 spots.

Other projects include turf athletic fields and improvements to Chew Street in an attempt to make the campus feel less divided.

The final phase of the Master Plan is proposed for completion in roughly ten years. This phase will see the renovation of Benfer Hall, additional student housing and landscaping.

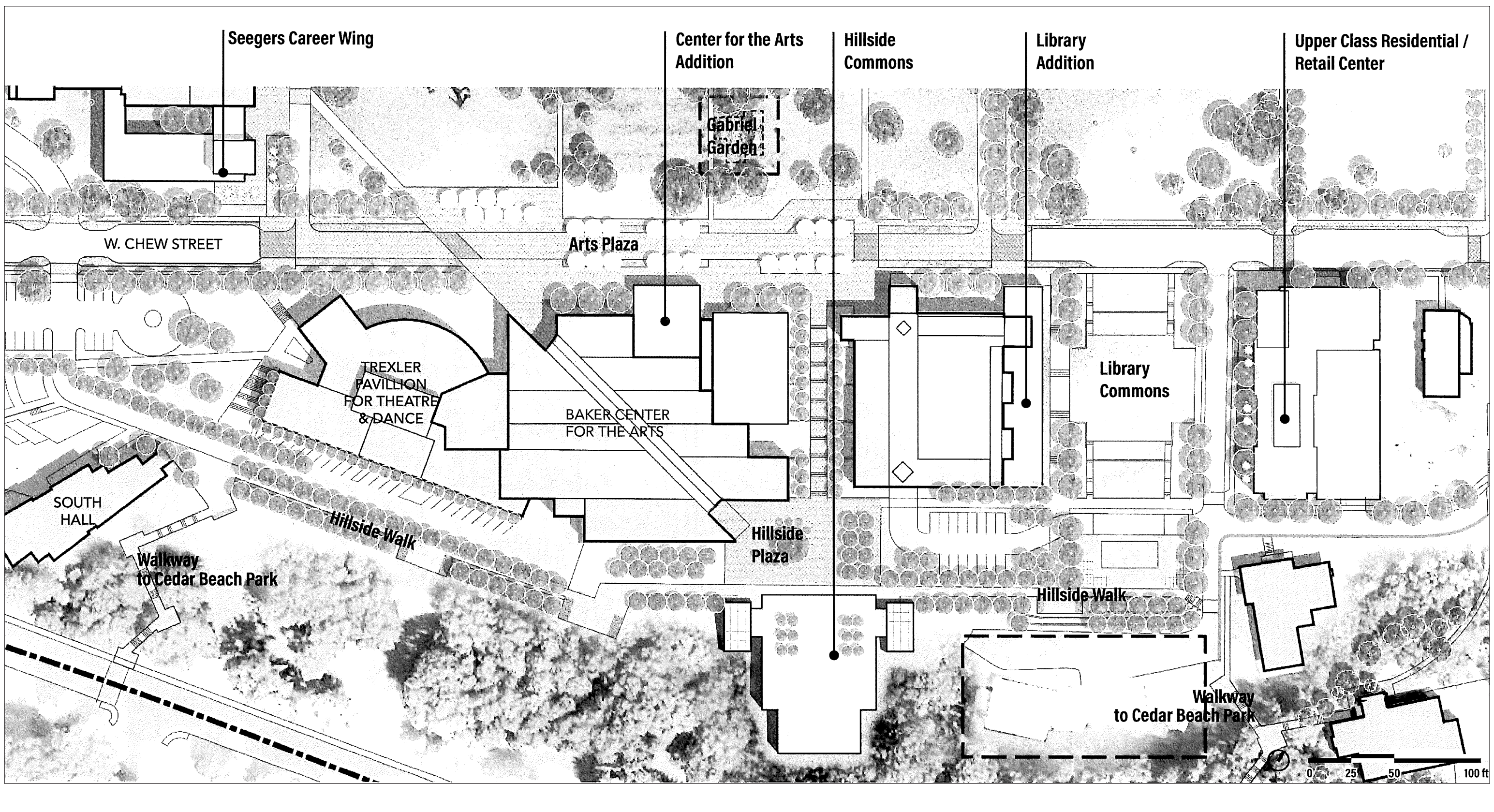
“It’s a plan, it’s not a commitment,” Williams stressed. “It’s a plan that will be looked at and updated and revised over time as our understanding of the campus and its needs continue to evolve.”

Part of the reason that the Master Plan is not definite stems from funding — the money needed for these improvements will come from fundraising efforts that will begin now that the plan has been finalized.

“The master plan is a tool,” explained Williams. “We didn’t set out to do a Master Plan, we set out to strengthen the support for our academic programs as well as the support for for making Muhlenberg’s residential experience more vibrant for our students.”

The plan has been developed by Wallace Roberts and Todd Design (WRT) in a process that began with strategic planning in October 2016. Over the last three semesters WRT has met with groups of students, faculty and staff and posted surveys asking for what respondents thought could be improved on campus.

“I’m very happy with the plan. When you step back and do one of these plans you see how there was always more that you would like to do,” said Williams. “If we’re able to do all of the proposals, we’ll have a campus that’s even more beautiful, exciting and vibrant.”


Seegers Career Wing
Center for the Arts Addition
Hillside Commons
Library Addition
Upper Class Residential / Retail Center
Gabriel Garden
W. CHEW STREET
Arts Plaza
TREXLER PAVILLION FOR THEATRE & DANCE
BAKER CENTER FOR THE ARTS
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Images Courtesy of the President's Office

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / ARTS & CULTURE

"Dance is the hidden language of the soul of the body."
—Martha Graham

Self-defense at the expense of laughs

Rejected 'America's Got Talent' contestant fails to amuse Muhlenberg students

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

Adam Grabowski, a comedian perhaps best known for having performed at more than 500 colleges and making it to the second round of "America's Got Talent" in 2016, performed in the Event Space on Friday, February 9. And there is a pretty good reason that Grabowski didn't make it much further on the show: he just wasn't that funny. When he told a joke about a topic, it would usually be the obvious joke about that topic. For example, he had a bit about women dropping hints, and the joke was that men were born too stupid to pick up on them, which seems like the obvious place to go with that.

This leads me to another issue I had with him: a lot of his jokes were based on stereotypes about women. At the start of the show, he talked about how he understood that gender is fluid and that stereotypes about men and women do not apply to all men and women — acknowledging that he's progressive — but then most of his jokes implicitly contradicted that. Consider the joke about women dropping hints: he said that men were born too stupid to pick up on hints, meaning that women shouldn't expect men to pick up on hints and should let them off the hook accordingly, this is problematic because all too often sexual assault comes about from men not picking up hints that women are not interested, not unlike Aziz Ansari.

This is indicative of a larger issue that ran throughout his show; Grabowski would take time to say something progressive but then make jokes contradicting what he said. This would bring a stop to the flow of the show, as he kept taking a break from jokes trying to say something progressive. This was made worse when he took about ten to twenty minutes out of the show to have a serious talk about depression. Now, talking about depression is important and can help destigmatize mental illness, but the way it was handled ended up being more of a problem than a legitimate discussion about mental health. Grabowski offered his advice to anyone who may be suffering from depression, saying that if something was causing them to be depressed they should just walk away. This advice is overly simplistic and doesn't acknowledge any of the complexities that go with depression, but worse than that it tells people with depression that if they if they are feeling depressed it is because they are not strong enough to stop being depressed.

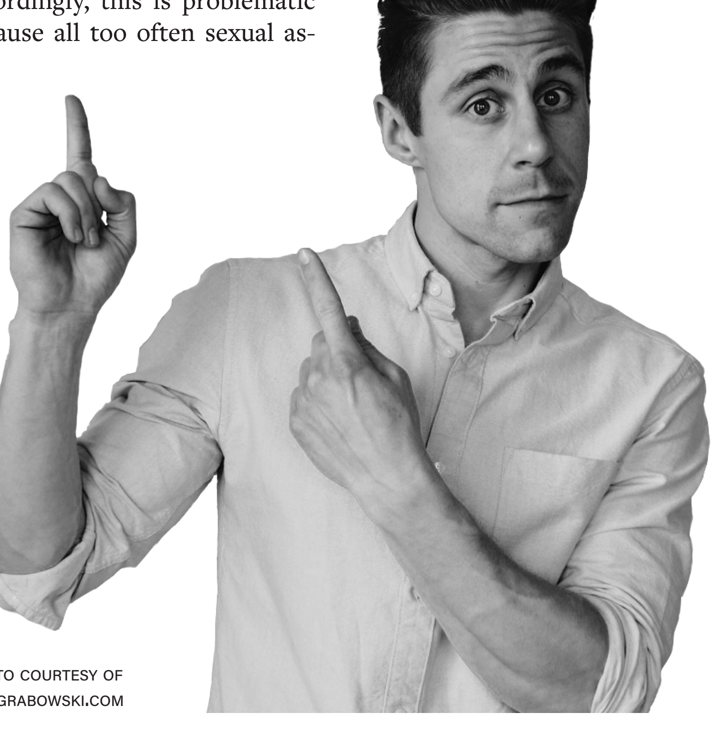


Photo courtesy of alexgrabowski.com

But, for the most part, these disclaimers would be about feminism— like how women cannot be defined by stereotypes — but then he would make jokes about women being emotional. It felt to me that he was making these kinds of jokes before people were politically correct and when that changed, instead of changing his set, he added disclaimers about how he wasn't actually misogynistic and the jokes are just based on observations he's made. I don't think he realizes that the backlash he's received is because the jokes are sexist. And instead of taking a critical look at himself, he added disclaimers to make sure everyone knew that his jokes are not sexist, even though they were.

It's more than just saying progressive things, it's about following through in actions, or risk that the act becomes so stale that audiences no longer appreciate these antiquated jokes.

As a result, his jokes came off as very defensive, which didn't create the best atmosphere. A good example of this defensiveness is when he talked about getting kicked off of "America's Got Talent." Clearly bitter, Grabowski complained that the producers cut out the laughs and that he was cut because the judges had a long day — in other words, he was kicked off not because he was bad, but because of the situation. Some of that may be true, but he neglected to mention that he was booed and again, his jokes just weren't very funny.

This combination of defensiveness and fake progressiveness created a bit of an issue at the end of the show. Grabowski took questions and someone asked what he thought of matadors' butts. He responded that he didn't like them because he didn't like people who kill bulls; similar to how he wouldn't find a Nazi cute — which upset someone in the audience. They called out that comparing Nazis and matadors is not okay, to which he responded — again, very defensively — that he could because he was using hyperbole. The crowd member replied that he had implicitly compared bulls and Jews, which Grabowski denied. The individual left, and later told me that she was more upset by his response than his joke, because she felt it tried to make her sound ridiculous.

Ultimately, this interaction is telling about Grabowski: his responses were all defensive, not at all concerned with her perspective. He also didn't apologize or acknowledge that what he said may have upset her until after she left.

But it was more than just defensiveness, it was that Grabowski did so by attacking what she said in response and claiming she had no reason to be upset. This was particularly ironic because not long before this exchange, he had commented that if a woman is upset, you shouldn't question it but support her. Again, just another example of Grabowski trying to be forward-thinking and then doing the exact opposite.

It is important to note that most of the things I've brought up here wouldn't be so bad on their own — again, it was the fact that he was defensive throughout the show, and that most jokes were antiquated stereotypes. These things are forgivable if they happen once on their own, but they were all prevalent throughout the show. Adam Grabowski is a great example of how comedians have to continuously adapt to our current climate; it's more than just saying progressive things, it's about following through in actions, or risk that the act becomes so stale that audiences no longer appreciate these antiquated jokes.

It shows that comedians are in a new territory where they have to make sure their jokes are as progressive as their audiences.

Never forget to remember: a Holocaust survivor speaks

By Ellen Powers
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, Muhlenberg students had the unique opportunity to hear from a Holocaust survivor as a part of Jenna Roth '18's leadership project through the Nachshon Project. Through this project, Roth was able to invite Agi Geva, a survivor of the Holocaust, to speak to a large group of Muhlenberg students.

The Nachshon Project is a Jewish leadership fellowship that enables college students to study abroad at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. Once students return from their semester abroad in Israel, they receive a budget from The Nachshon Project to complete a leadership project.

The theme of the event was "Don't Forget to Remember," and it certainly will be difficult for Geva's story to be forgotten.

The theme of the event was "Don't Forget to Remember," and it certainly will be difficult for Geva's story to be forgotten. In fact, there were so many students at the event that the room was expanded to accommodate everyone who attended. The event included Geva's discussion of her story, an opportunity for the students attending to ask questions, and a time set for the students to reflect with each other about Geva's story.

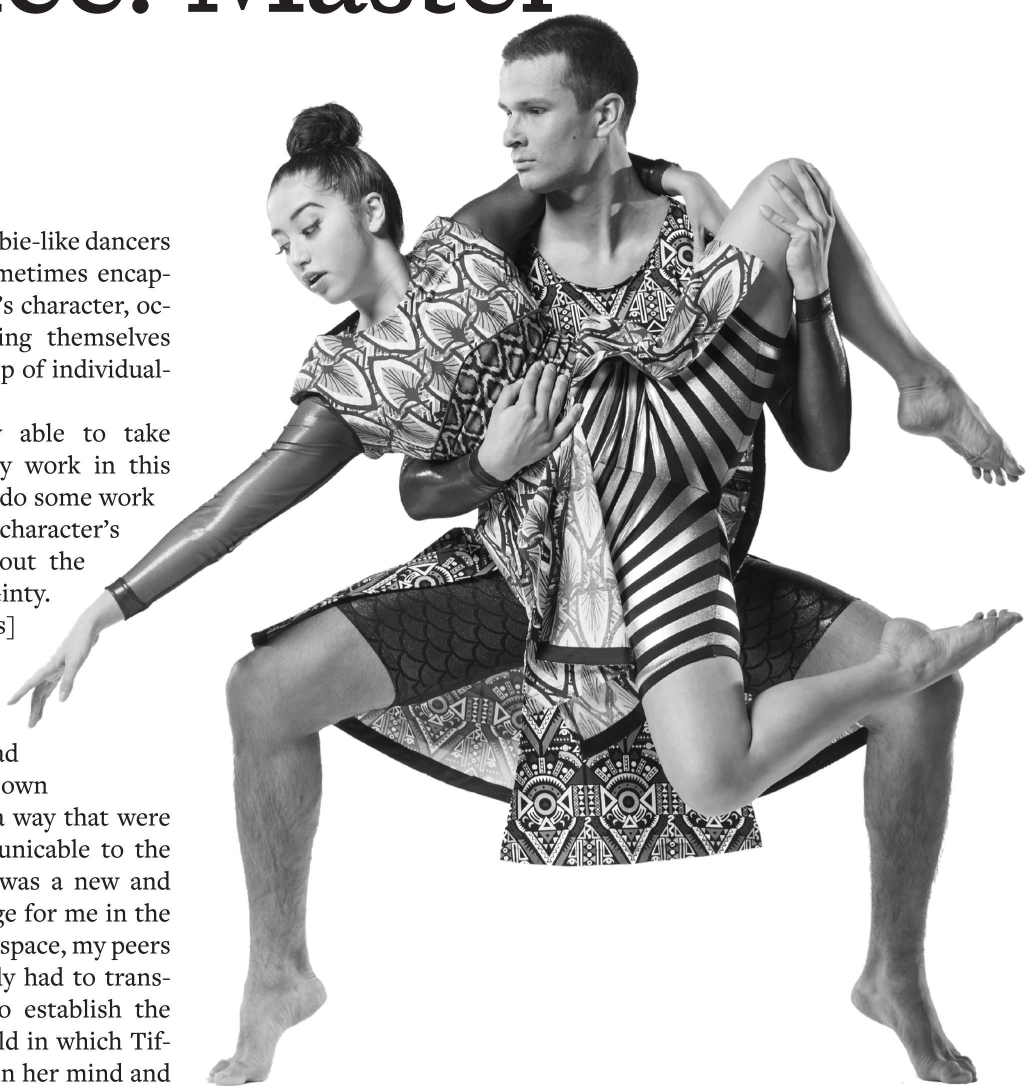
Not surprisingly, Geva's story resonated with themes of fear and confusion, but also those of hope and perseverance. Her story went from unimaginable to even worse, but Geva's mother's quick thinking in the concentration camps helped to her family alive through all of their horrific ordeals.

Geva grew up in a town northeast of Budapest, Hungary. Her life was completely changed on

see **Survivor** page 7

The Spirit of Dance: Master Choreographers

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor



As the lights go down, I shift to the edge of my seat. I place my elbow on the armrest to my right, ready to push my glasses as close to my eyes as humanly possible. I don't want to miss a single detail of what's about to happen right in front of me.

Red flares up along the back of the stage, interrupted only by the silhouette of a jauntily tipped martini glass and the shadowy forms of people, posed as if the audience had hit pause on the beginnings of a Gatsby-esque gala. One of the shadows starts to move, and as an understated yet supremely cool cover of "Fever" sneaks its way into my ears, the shadows become partygoers. I am gone. All that's left is the dance.

Thus began Master Choreographers 2018, an annual showcase of Muhlenberg's finest dance students performing stunning works created by faculty and, in the case of the chilling "It Happens Only Once... Yesterday and Tomorrow," this year's Baker Artist-In-Residence Tiffany Mills. Seven works were presented on the Empie Theatre stage, a program that transported audiences to different world for nearly two hours in total. Those two hours were a product of about six months of work for both the dancers and choreographers involved, as auditions were held around the same time as the fall dance show Moving Stories in September. Dancer Lauren McGinty '18 recalls the audition experience as an arduous but rewarding one.

"Master Choreographers auditions are the biggest auditions of the year for dancers, so the DST is absolutely packed for those few hours," McGinty said. "A few faculty will teach about a minute of their own choreography which we then perform in small groups by order of seniority. The audition process can be a little stressful but is mostly fun because you get a taste of what each of the choreographers are looking for in their piece."

Though McGinty has played the roles of both dancer and choreographer in her illustrious career at Muhlenberg, this performance presented her with a unique task: taking on a featured role in Mills' piece meant that McGinty needed to explore a bit more of the acting side to dance. Mills' work began with one dancer lying face-up on the ground, rocking with her head tilted back to meet the floor and arms outstretched as though she were an overturned insect. McGinty's character approached the dancer tentatively, seemingly debating whether to help or stay away. Throughout the performance, an ensemble of zombie-like dancers followed and sometimes encapsulated McGinty's character, occasionally trapping themselves in an endless loop of individualized movements.

"I was really able to take ownership of my work in this piece as I had to do some work exploring my character's journey throughout the piece," said McGinty. "Tiffany [Mills] gave me some hints as to what my journey was, but I had [to] embody my own choices in such a way that were clear and communicable to the audience which was a new and pleasant challenge for me in the dance word. The space, my peers and my own body had to transform in order to establish the nightmarish world in which Tiffany envisioned in her mind and I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to allow my theatre and dance training culminate in such a great way for this concert."

For fellow second-semester senior Cat Ward, however, Master Choreographers took the form of a fairytale: in dance professor Karen Dearborn's piece "Streaming," ballerinas clad in green floated over a lush landscape of clean lines and sunny smiles. According to Ward, the bonds created during the rehearsal process were what really made this dance special.

"This piece was extremely important to me because it involved really appreciating the community of dancers you are working with," Ward said. "As a senior, I've been reflecting a lot on my experiences here at Muhlenberg and it has been the people I'm surrounded by that have made my time so precious. Karen Dearborn is an incredible artist, teacher, mentor and person and having the opportunity to be a part of her work meant an [indescribable] amount to me. The piece was one of two pointe pieces throughout the show and it was truly an honor."

The second of these pointe pieces, Heidi Cruz-Austin's "Widow's Promenade II," enraptured audiences with its space-age tutus and combination of classical and modern techniques, creating an enticing new conception of what ballet can be. Though this piece was certainly one of the most visually interesting of the night, it was by no means the only dance to create an astonishing amalgamation of styles – Randall Anthony Smith, whose works almost always become audience favorites, choreographed a dance for all the senses with "Between," a three-part exploration that implicated all those watching in its actions. Pointed fingers that accused viewers and dancers alike became number ones and eventually turned on their owners, marking spaces on their own foreheads as targets.

Even pieces that stuck to one style of dance, like Shelley Oliver's tap piece "On the Precipice," had audience members grinning and cheering as soon as the curtains opened and reached new heights in terms of skill, inspiring sheer awe in all those who attended. Each dancer was perfectly in sync with all of the rest, and also impeccably timed each step with the live musical accompaniment – tremolos on the upright bass were echoed in the toes of the tappers, and each swell of the music brought new movements to the floor.

Still other works seemed to bring forth a sense of pure joy and fun. Elise Miwa '20 danced in Corrie Cowart's "If the glove fits," the classy and coy piece described at the beginning of this article, and Jeffrey Peterson's "Side By Side," a jubilant tale of drab businesspeople breaking free from the constraints of their daily lives and joining together to celebrate the colorful world around them. According to Miwa, these two vibrant performances came together in very distinct ways.

"The processes were quite different, because Jeffrey's was a restaging, while Corrie's was an original work," said Miwa. "The rehearsal process for 'Side by Side' began with learning the dance from videos of the two previous iterations of the dance, while making changes to make it fit the group of dancers we had. Corrie's piece, on the other hand, began with a lot of our own movement, which she then worked into the piece along with much of her own choreography."

This sense of togetherness permeates much of Master Choreographers: from the dancers' sense of agency in their own performances to the friendships created in rehearsal to the audience's sense of experiencing a work of beauty alongside other humans, there is always someone to turn to. Look out for future dance performances, including Dance Gallery towards the end of the semester. Until then, though, perhaps keep in mind the spirit of dance as expressed by Ward:

"Dance is a way of expression and it lives in each of us every day (even those who claim not to be dancers). The way we move is so deeply a part of who we are as humans and I think a show like Masters just really emphasizes that ... If I could capture every moment, every feeling, and put it in a jar to save forever, I would."

Photos courtesy of Matthew Wright

Vagina Monologues for the #MeToo age

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Jess Bice '21 recites "The Little Coochie-Snorcher That Could," a monologue detailing the psychological and social impacts of her anatomy experienced at various stages of womanhood.

The Red Doors, which usually houses a sparse group of students studying during weeknights, is filled with an anxious crowd. The production they wait to see is here for just two days, but it's one that many have been waiting for since last February. But with many women coming forward with sexual harassment claims against Hollywood elite — and even the President — there could not be a better time for the group of women sitting in chairs, dressed all in black under the spotlights, to recite The Vagina Monologues.

The lights go out and the crowd goes silent. Co-director Lizzie Roswig '19 steps forward to remind the crowd that some monologues are going to trigger emotions, whatever they may be, and "honoring those emotions" is part of the production.

The Vagina Monologues were begun by playwright and activist Eve Ensler, whose groundbreaking play featuring interviews with women young and old aims to address the stigma around women's sexuality. It created a conversation about women and their bodies started by and for women. Some of the monologues feature women's views on sex and relationships; others share stories of rape and violence, but also of survival.

Some of the monologues featured in Muhlenberg's rendition of The Vagina Monologues were emotional, sometimes with comedic undertones to keep the mood light. Others like "Hair," a piece about a woman whose husband cheats on her because she won't shave her pubic hair, or "They Beat the Girl Out of My Boy ... Or So They Tried," a piece based off the experiences of transgender women, left the audience silent.

Despite Muhlenberg putting on a performance of The Vagina Monologues around Valentine's Day each year, this was Sara Kass '18's first time acting in it. She saw the show her freshman year and knew that it was something she wanted to participate in at some point.

"Not being a theater person was actually one of the driving reasons behind this choice," said Kass. "I knew the show would push me out of my comfort zone at 'Berg, while also allowing me to explore one of my greatest passions through another avenue of thinking. I care deeply about the themes and feminism behind the show, and I'm really thankful that I got the opportunity to be a part of the production."

For Kass, the process, from beginning to end, was challenging on many fronts. According to her, not being a theater major made everything from auditioning and rehearsing to performing intimidating. What made the performance possible for Kass were the women that went through the process with her.

"From the moment that I stepped in front of Lizzie and Sam [Davis '18] to audition to holding hands with Heather as we spoke the last words of the show on Saturday," said Kass, "I felt unconditionally supported and empowered throughout the experience."

While the monologues have a significant impact on their own, the two-day production also raised $850 for Turning Point Lehigh Valley, which acts as a safe space for victims of abuse. This total surpassed the previous year's, showing that, while the popularity of The Vagina Monologues is growing, so is the support the production is able to provide.

"I think The Vagina Monologues starts a conversation that can be hard to have," said Kass. "People need language and an invitation to talk about 'taboo' subjects like the vagina, and I think this show allows for dialogue that would have a hard time getting off the ground otherwise. I also think the show does a good job subtly making sure that our feminism is intersectional — not all women have vaginas, and not all vaginas belong to women. Although a lot of the show centers around themes of womanhood intertwined with the particular body part, it also has pieces that allow for reflection on how we've been entrenched in one narrative about the vagina, and how that narrative change and stretches in the bright light of 2018."

As the new year looms ahead, one that began with the second iteration of the famous Women's March of last year, there are sure to be more opportunities for women to tell their stories in new and innovative ways. Even so, The Vagina Monologues is an important reminder of where we came from and how far we can — and must — go.

from **Survivor**
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Mar. 19, 1944, when Germany officially occupied Hungary. She and her mother, father and sister were forced to wear the infamous yellow stars to signify that they were Jewish. The family was then taken from a boarding house to the ghettos, where they were forced to live in a cramped space with many other families. At the time, Geva was 14 and her sister was 13, so they "couldn't even understand what was going to happen."

Eventually, the Geva family was forced to ride in boxcars with conditions that were "impossible, not human at all" for three and a half days to get to the concentration camp they would later learn was Auschwitz. When they arrived, the men and women were separated, so Geva couldn't even say goodbye to her father. In this situation, her mother realized that they had to stop addressing each other like they were family, and Geva and her sister pretended they were 18 and 19 years old, all so they wouldn't get separated from each other. At the event, the audience could feel the relief Geva described when she explained how the women of her family got to stay together.

Geva went on to explain how in Auschwitz, she and the other Jewish people faced the "utmost humiliation" over just the course of just the first day at the camp. They had to give up all their luggage from home, which included everything they had, including family pictures and jewelry. This separation was devastating for Geva and her family, but it tragically grew as they were forced to undress completely, part with their clothes, and be showered with a disinfecting spray. They were almost taken to the gas chambers, but they ended up evading this tragic death. At the time, however, only Geva's mother knew what the gas chambers really were.

Geva was temporarily relocated to another concentration camp, but eventually they were all sent back to Auschwitz. Geva is one of only 13 people in the Holocaust who was sent to Auschwitz twice and survived both times. Geva was spared from the gas chamber because she was able to speak German with the soldier running the selection. Eventually, she, as well as her mother and sister, were sent to work at a factory in Germany. On Apr. 29, 1945, they found out that they were free.

One thing that was particularly fascinating about Geva's story was her discussion about her life after the Holocaust. She explained that she "thought [she] would never be free, that [she] would be a prisoner forever." Upon a question from a student, Geva described how adjusting to life after liberation was actually rather difficult. Her mother was able to remarry and live a happy life with her second husband, but Geva did not stay in college because she faced anti-Semitism.

Throughout her story, Geva wanted to get the message across that the generation of the students in attendance would be the last generation to have survivors of the Holocaust to speak to them directly; as a result, she stressed the importance that they hear these stories.

Jenna Levin '21 had an interesting perspective on the talk. "I have been to all of the concentration camps [Geva] mentioned, so it was interesting to be able to visualize the events of her story."

Deena Danishefsky '21 shared that she has a Holocaust survivor in her family, went to a Jewish day school, and is accustomed to hearing stories like Geva's. "But I don't want to be used to it. I want to take this experience and be more proactive." And Emma Schwartz '21 noted that "there was a picture of Auschwitz, and it's so sad to think the buildings would survive longer than the people."

These ideas reflect the atmosphere of the room after hearing Geva's story: everyone was genuinely fascinated by, and sympathetic to, the story Geva told. This idea was coupled with Roth's closing statement about National Holocaust Remembrance Day: "The importance of remembering is not confined within just one day."

> **Throughout her story, Geva wanted to get the message across that the generation of the students in attendance would be the last generation to have survivors of the Holocaust to speak to them directly, so it is important that this generation hears their stories.**

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THE REHEARSAL

By Melissa Marino, '18

An actor's playground. The rehearsal studio. A collaborative cacophony of creative ideas. An escape into a world of make-believe. This empty, windowless room with scuffed white walls and slick hardwood floors, has the ability to transform into a new world much like the actors transforming into their characters. The tape lines on the floor suggest where the dilapidated set pieces will go, which are taken from the overflowing garage of miscellaneous props and set pieces.

Upon arriving, none of the actors are there quite yet. Brett Mathews '19, the stage manager, is sweeping the floor with a dust mop so that the actors do not slip. All of the dust bunnies that have accumulated from previous rehearsals are pushed off to the side of the room.

Mathews then begins to put the creaky furniture into their respective spots in the space. Now the room has transformed, complete with a table and four chairs for the principal's office on stage right and a couple of large black boxes for the kitchen area on stage left.

"My favorite prop is the sandwich that looks like moldy cheese," said Irene Martinko '18, director of *Conform*, as Mathews throws a plastic yellow sandwich onto one of the boxes in the imaginary kitchen area.

Martinko is currently a senior at Muhlenberg where she is a theatre major with a concentration in directing and a double minor in music, and women's and gender studies. She came to Muhlenberg thinking that she would want to concentrate in acting, but quickly realized during her Acting I class that it was not for her.

"We had done a few weeks of bonding exercises in Larry Singer's class, and he said, 'I know that you are all anxiously awaiting for me to assign you scenes so that you can get on your feet and start acting,'" said Martinko. "And everyone said, 'yeah,' and I thought 'oh I'm dreading that.'"

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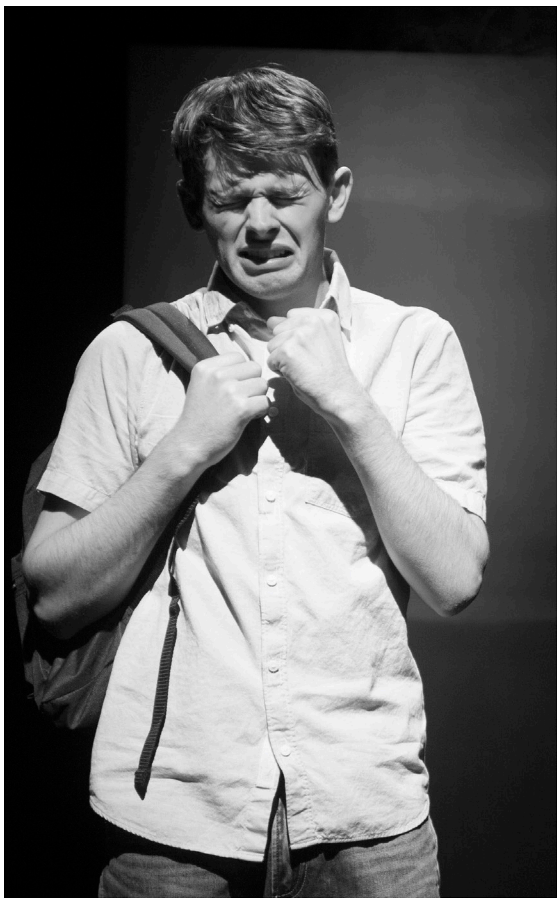
Photo by Melissa Marino

THE PLAYWRIGHT

By Matt Riebesell, '19

"What's up? I punched the principal in the face."

Sean Kenny '20 began to recite the line of his character, Sam. Every third word or so, Kenny twitched. "I punched him in the face, called him a psychopathic perverted…" The actor broke from his character. He stumbled. "This is so uncomfortable," Kenny said, speaking as himself. "The good thing about this show is that nervous ticks are welcome." The ticks, twitches, and jerks that came from his thin frame were part of his acting, but an unaware audience member could mistake them for something real. Kenny's struggle to say that "psychopathic perverted" line, which was laced with twelve curse words in two sentences, seemed to fit within an overarching narrative that ran throughout the rehearsals of *Conform* in the first-floor rehearsal hall of the Trexler Pavilion.



Sean Kenny, '20, as Sam in Conform.
Photo by Ken Ek.

Joe McNaney, the playwright of *Conform*, is the visionary of the production, and he too struggled with the show. "When I began writing Conform it was going to be a coming of age story about a kid like me," said McNaney, a Muhlenberg alum who currently resides in Chicago. "That was boring." Striving for better than boring forced McNaney to ask himself challenging questions like: Why should people watch or read this play? How do I find a conclusion? How do I make the occurrences in this production as accurate as possible?

To answer those questions McNaney found the inspiration for *Conform* deeply rooted within challenges from his own childhood. "I involved Tourette Syndrome, a disability I had when I was younger." McNaney explained. The show tiptoes between many boundaries and comfort zones as a piece about a 14-year-old coming of age while battling Tourette Syndrome. Scenes include Sam being raised in a household with a single mother, academic struggles, and peer pressure.

During rehearsals, actors practiced scenes where Sam goes on a profanity laced tirade against his mother who is trying to calm and console her son. Kenny and Camille Seidel '18, who plays Sam's mom, went over the same scene until they were literally too tired to keep pretending to fight each other. And while the actors struggled to find the energy to continue the crew had to not only be concerned with their own safety and energy, but also make sure the lines sounded natural. Because of circumstances and situations like the ones above, there were scenes that had to be tweaked, reconstructed, and completely scrapped throughout the writing process.

"I tried to make it more personal by highlighting the language boys use without knowing what it means, just because that is what boys older than them do," said McNaney. One particular challenge in the play was the usage of the word 'fag'. The use the word is offensive, but to avoid using it is inauthentic to the character who, as a young teen, might hear it quite often. "I had to make sure I didn't fall into the trap of just saying 'fag' because it was the easy choice," explained McNaney. "Each time, and there were many, I weighed it against alternatives and realized these 14-year-old boys don't think before they talk all the time. I just attempted to write in that voice as best I could."

Many of *Conform*'s cast have appreciated the hard work and meticulous detail which has gone into the show, and McNaney's character's voice lends authenticity. "Joe's writing style is absolutely hilarious," said Irene Martinko '18, *Conform*'s director. "He's both honest and has the ability to play with language in a really satisfying way. I love the way that he's written this play because it's this mash-up of genres and over-the-top jokes, but it's also got a lot of depth to it."

Martinko admits that the play has some portions that were hard to pull off for the actors and staff. "Beyond the fact that the main character has to appear as if he has Tourette Syndrome, there are also seven different instances requiring stage combat, quick changes every single scene, a musical number with singing and dancing, and a huge amount of harsh language," Martinko said. All of these factors made her nervous to take on the project. But, with time, McNaney's vision became less daunting. "We're all pretty desensitized to the language, and we've reached a point where the goal is to be as true to Joe's story as possible rather than worry about what the audience is going to think."

As a playwright, McNaney was not involved in casting, but when he found out who would be playing the roles of his carefully constructed characters he was thrilled. "I am impressed with their talent and ability to go from super goofy to real serious really quickly," explained McNaney, emphasizing skills that were essential for the roles needing to be filled.

McNaney also acknowledged that finding the right person to act in a role of a someone with a disability is as critical as writing their lines correctly, and he mentioned how impressed he was with Kenny specifically. "Sean took on a big role playing someone with a disability and has worked very hard. It shows."

Brett Mathews '19, the stage manager for *Conform* wanted to make sure McNaney's vision is exactly what the audience sees from the show, and acknowledges he worried that *Conform* would be mistaken for a show that an audience would struggle connecting with because of the scenes involving fighting and explicit language. But he was pleased with the casts' progress. "Everything in this play has a degree of "crossing the line" when taken out of context and missing the point of the show," said Mathews. "It is quite a challenge to make sure the right message comes out, which falls upon Irene and I."

A lot of the challenges *Conform* has brought the playwright and staff have been ironed out because of the flexibility of the show's cast and crew. Martinko praised McNaney for not being too rigid when ideas to change the original script were brought up. "Joe's actually been great about edits because of his flexibility when it comes to the script," she said. "He's been very open to actors improvising lines at certain moments and adjusting lines if the actors feel comfortable saying them a certain way. It's always nerve-wracking to show a playwright what you've done with their work, but I'm grateful to Joe for being helpful, supportive, and open to new ideas."

Although *Conform*'s story existed for a brief period on stage during the fall semester of 2017, its impact in McNaney's life will carry on. The challenges McNaney faced during writing *Conform* were simultaneously small and large. Small because, in the moment, *Conform* is a 33 page script, approximately 25 minutes in length, which creates an intriguing story of personal triumph by tugging at the imagination and personal triumph of the playwright. Yet large, because it is an opportunity for an aspiring and young playwright to make a mark in an incredibly demanding field which presents few opportunities to make it big.

However, conform is a production that McNaney ideally wants to re-visit again in his future career endeavors, even though it may end up being one small step in his future potential career. "In 10 years I want to have re-written this play and fixed plot holes."

But for McNaney, the decision to write this show was simple; he wanted to bring the most meaningful story he possibly could to the audience.

"I just thought about something I know that many others don't and I tried to show them something I think really matters."

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However, she found her stride in the theatre department through directing.

"I realized that when I was an actor in rehearsal, I found myself wanting to make changes in the show that I wasn't allowed to make," said Martinko. "So, I wanted to be in those conversations of how a piece functions as a whole and not just what my character is supposed to do at what time."

As Martinko works with Mathews to figure out lighting and sound cues, one-by-one the actors gradually enter the room ready to work. They energetically and enthusiastically engage with one another as if it is the first day of school after a long summer vacation.

Once all of the students have arrived, they begin their group warm-up. With the 'NSYNC version of "Trashin' the Camp" playing the background, the actors gather in a large circle and begin to copy one another's equally goofy movements. Martinko does the sprinkler and her cast copies her through seemingly endless bouts of laughter. Laughing and dancing their way out of the circle, the actors grab their scripts to officially begin rehearsal. Without offering much direction, Martinko has her cast start from the top of the play.

As Eric Rosenblatt '18 enters stage right along with Bobby Ottaviano '18 and Sean Cheney '20 Martinko watches them with the joy of an avid theatergoer and the astuteness of a strong director.

"Boy oh boy," Rosenblatt says very casually, "I sure am excited to learn about the topics we are being taught by teachers."

Their lines bounce off of one another like ping-pong balls. Each actor feeds off of each other's energy and wit, making each run-through of each scene that much more exciting and invigorating. The passion in the actors' eyes lights up the otherwise sparse room.

"You have to feel passionate about theatre or you can't sustain it," said Martinko. "Theatre is really difficult and takes a lot out of you."

The collaborative and artistic atmosphere is at the core of the rehearsal space. Martinko allows her actors to write and rewrite, and live and breathe their character's story throughout rehearsal. After the completion of each scene, she asks the actors "How did that feel?"

"Directing doesn't need to be a hierarchy," said Martinko. She does not place her actors like chess pieces on a board. She instead lets them glide through the space and cut their own path as they go through each individual scene.

"Try doing the scene without any awareness of space and the audience. See what happens," said Martinko. Understanding her direction, the actors begin to play with the scene as Martinko sits back and lets her actors experiment. When the scene is finished, she asks her usual question, "How did that feel?"

The actors then smile and nod in approval. They offer their own feedback and create a dialogue with Martinko to figure out which direction they want to take the scene during the next run through.

"I think it's very cool to tell a story in this way and to be a part of something so collaborative," said Martinko. "I love that it's such a welcoming environment."

After two hours of rehearsal, Martinko closes with the same vibrant energy from the start of the rehearsal. The actors are still laughing and smiling, but they now must part ways. The set pieces are put back in the overly stuffed garage and scripts are placed into the actors backpacks.

The studio is back to being an empty, windowless room with scuffed white walls and slick hardwood floors. The actors are no longer playing a character in a play. Gradually, they leave as if recess is over and it is time to go back to class. The tightly knit group makes their exit from a world of make believe and storytelling to head back to reality, until the next rehearsal.

THE DIRECTOR

By Alyssa Hertel, ‘18

Tick tick tick.

Tall and lanky, limbs covered by black sweatpants and a purposely oversized black overcoat, Brydon Geisler ‘18 eyes dart from couch to couch trying to identify the people he’s supposed to meet. His search is hindered by sorority girls gossiping where the meeting was scheduled to occur and the hustle and bustle of Java Joe’s at seven o’clock which feeds evening caffeine and procrastination to the students just trying to survive at the halfway point of the semester. Geisler lets his thumbs fidget. Eyes still scan.

Tick tick.

“When we move on to the next scene, remember to keep it open, sort of, what am I looking for, sing-songy.”

After waiting patiently for the faculty advisor to read off his notes and leave the room, Geisler leans forward onto his elbows and looks his small cast in the eye, indirectly.

“Think about choosing silences rather than letting them happen to you.”

He’s got notes of his own. They’re not written on any legal pad but rather captured in his head and he moves from one suggestion to the next, elaborating on the ones he only thinks need mention. Like an elevator, he skips over several floors to get to his final destination, which in this rehearsal focuses on the impact he wants his play to have.

After all, as a senior, this isn’t just any other play – this is a culmination of Geisler’s four years in Muhlenberg’s theater department.

Tick tick tick.

He sits by the fireplace in Seegers Union, body weight supported by his elbows much like in his rehearsal. Geisler’s out of his element, avoiding the eye contact he so confidently held just a couple weeks earlier. While his ability to command the room has gone backstage, he rarely stumbles over a question about his upcoming play.

What will stand out most, according to Geisler, is that *The Bald Soprano* is everything Muhlenberg theater is not.

“A lot of the theater program at Muhlenberg, at least technically in classes and structure, focuses heavily on naturalism and realism. *The Bald Soprano* is not. I had to start from scratch and me and the cast and crew all had to learn what the story is and what part to tell.”

The Bald Soprano finds its origins in the theater of the absurd. What it is supposed to represent is not overwhelmingly apparent, but many critics suggest that it expresses how meaningless and mundane communication is in current society.

Tackling issues that like through theater can be difficult enough, without being a student directing other students.

But Geisler welcomes the challenge.

“Directing other students actually allows for more opportunity for it to truly be a student production,” said Geisler. “It’s a lot less authoritarian and more collaborative. I don’t have time to choreograph every little moment, so there’s a lot of leeway in general between me and the actors.”

For Geisler, whose start in theater began at a summer camp and morphed into using theater as social change, hopes that the subtly comical and absurd play will provoke conversation. The content of the play itself has the possibility to do so but only time will tell if the shy, self-underrating senior has what it takes to produce a powerful portrayal of the absurd.

Left and center photos by Tom Amico, below photo by Scott Snyder.

THE STAGE MANAGER

By Julia Fritz, ‘19

The Starting Point

Through the red doors of the angled, Center for the Arts building. Down the sloping hall, up the staircase. Right. Left. Right. A small room tucked in the corner, 226, known as the “tap box” hosts inner workings of a mainstage performance. Old wooden floors echo every foot fall, a black bar runs along one wall, and props for the The Bald Soprano rehearsal decorate the sparse space: purple couch, black door, stool, two chairs.1

“If you were to discover a new planet, what would you call it?” said Katie Spina ‘19, stage manager for the production, creating a relaxed atmosphere with her “question of the day.”

“Pluto, so it can be a planet again,” said Kayla Kristofco ’20, assistant stage manager, a smile pulling at her lips.

Brydon Geisler ‘18, student director, arrives and everyone prepares for a long night. The focus is Mr. and Mrs. Martin, Ben Dawn-Cross ‘20 and Esther Kruman ’18 respectively. For two hours, Spina takes tedious notes while the actors run through a scene. She handles what others do not see, a liaison between every department that will help craft a performance. Reserving rehearsal spaces, sending countless emails, and taking notes on every line is all in a day’s work.

This isn’t her first go-round. Spina’s resume includes stage manager for a low-key production in the Red Doors, as well as the assistant stage manager for Muhlenberg’s *The Pirates of Penzance* in 2016.

The rehearsal plays like an old VHS tape: blurs of the same scene replaying, catching a moment not seen the first time. “Again!” Geisler presses pause, interjecting with a clipped bark. The actors rewind.

“Take out your pauses. Do more small gestures. It’s ‘then,’ not ‘so’!”

The Bald Soprano is an absurdist fiction, a mystery in meaning. Yet, the actors work hard, maybe harder in this case, to bring something, anything to the performance. And it shows. One rehearsal conveys the tone of the countdown until opening night. Tension hangs in the air. Everyone sags with the weight of the upcoming weeks.

After rehearsal, Kruman runs up to Geisler, her cream ruffled skirt swishing against her black shoes.

“Can you run lines with me now? I’m free until 10.”

After a night of repetition, she wants to get the lines just right. It seems almost absurd. But then again, the whole production is absurd.

The Preparation

When an audience sees a theatre production, they notice the actors’ exquisite display of emotion or the way the music moves and dips with the scene. When Katie Spina sees a theatre production, she notices the seamless transitions and the detailed lighting cues that supplement a performance.

It is Spina’s job to notice these minuscule details. We look on stage, she looks behind it

As a theatre and political science double major, she is not just a student, although that’s what one would assume with one glance. With red, wavy hair cut short and a gleaming nose ring, Spina looks like any other liberal arts student walking to class. But she also works behind closed doors of Muhlenberg’s New Voices, New Visions mainstage productions. While the actors run lines and work through movements, she prepares intricacies that flawlessly weave a story together.

Actors receive a standing ovation and bouquets of flowers. Stage crew is graced with a raised hand from the performers at the end of a show, but rarely the audience recognizes it.

“Sometimes it’s sad. You do a lot and no one knows who you are,” Spina said. But the invisible identity doesn’t bother her.

“It’s nice to be involved in a way that’s not ‘out there.’”

Stage managers experience the same thing actors or directors do. A job well done. A performance that impacts people.

Stage managers are like superheroes. No one knows who they are. That doesn’t stop them from doing what they need to do.

The Performance

The lights dim. Spina sits above, half-hidden in the darkness. Dressed in black, wearing a headset. She ensures every cue hits its mark, not taking a moment to sit back. The Martins and Smiths jump and yell as a stage clock’s hand twirls indefinitely, the notion of time – and its meaning – unknown. Somewhere in the madness, a fireman appears, whipping a hose around and around. The audience perches on the edge of their seats, breaths held. If they look away for a minute, they’ll miss everything and nothing.

What’s in it for the actors, the stage manager, the director? What is the payoff for months of labor, headaches, and search of meaning? Maybe it’s the laughter that roars from the audience throughout the play. Maybe it’s the applause that reverberates off the walls, bouncing back into the performers’ ears. Maybe there is an appreciation of nothing, the making of one’s own meaning. This fuels the actors. The ability to construct their own connection, weave their own tales.

When the performers bow to thunderous clapping and whistles, the long nights of rehearsal feel worth it. The frustration of understanding multi-dimensional meaning fades. They will never be in that particular moment, with that particular crew, in that particular character again. The cycle of roles will continue, many will pursue acting after graduation. But the play about nothing, the ability to find oneself through a role, as an actor or a crew member, will not be forgotten.

As the applause tapers off, Spina sits back with a smile.

to their own **beat**

Photo credit: “Rap” by Antonio Rull, 2012

Richard Sherman, Jameis Winston and Marshawn Lynch all currently play in the National Football League. A cornerback, quarterback and running back, respectively, all three are one of the most recognizable and talented figures playing their position. They share another commonality – a ‘thuggish’ reputation built on questionable behavior spotlighted by the media. There’s an affinity between these men and the likes of Travis Kelce and Tom Brady except for one stark difference.

Sherman, Winston and Lynch are black.

And because of the color of their skin, their passion for the game is often misconstrued as brutish, at least in John ‘Faahz’ Merchant’s eyes.

“Richard Sherman is a highly educated man,” said Merchant. “He has a masters degree, he went to Stanford. But people call him a thug because of the way he looks and his passion for the game.”

Merchant, an actor and beatboxer who recently won an NAACP award for Best Male Lead for *Dreamscape*, has left the small crowd gathered in Miller Forum silent. How, they wonder, did a conversation about hip-hop theater turn into an ESPN-esque impassioned rant about one of the biggest stars in professional football. The connection between the two, however, is simple.

That brute-like misconception about black football players is something echoed in hip-hop culture. It’s those persistent stereotypes that bookended why something like hip-hop theatre is so vital in today’s climate – where conversations about race and inequality are intersected by racism and horrific injustice.

Merchant and Natali Micciche, who also recently won an NAACP award for Best Female Lead for *Dreamscape*, reiterated that feeling that hip-hop is more than just music or dance, beats or type of clothing.

“It provides a form of expression that I couldn’t find anywhere else,” said Micciche. “I’m thin in stature, but I don’t have the body to be a ballerina. I’m mixed race so I’m ethnically ambiguous. This is a place where I can be who I am and show who I am in the midst of still performing.”

Merchant attributed hip-hop theater to being a vehicle for unity, peace, expression and self-love, among other things. He praised it mostly for giving people a unique space to “be their truth” and find a community and a culture away from being on the streets or a part of gang culture. But for Merchant, it also bridges the systemic educational gap.

“You say Shakespeare is the greatest writer of all time,” said Merchant. “But they’re not giving people access to this knowledge. To say ‘to be or not to be.’ Well, then we’re going to say it the way that we say it. ‘What’s happening? Is it what it is or what it ain’t.’ Saying the same exact thing but now I identify with those people and they have the same access to that knowledge and those opportunities. Now we’re able to have a conversation.”

For the two who would perform *Dreamscape* at Muhlenberg, hip hop culture and hip hop theater will always be about the creation of community. In Merchant’s eyes, at the end of the day, it’s about having pride in where he came from and sharing in that space with other like-minded individuals. For Micciche, it’s not only relatable and creates necessary conversations, but for her, it felt like doing hip-hop theatre was when she truly started becoming an artist and fully engaging in the work she was doing.–**Alyssa Hertel ‘18**

Almost comically funky and boppy by today’s standards, Rappers Delight, by The Sugarhill Gang, is usually the song credited with introducing mainstream American audiences to hip hop. It might sound foreign to today’s listeners but the song’s influence is more profoundly important to hip hop’s modern application than most of them may know: in addition to spurring the masses to accept the style of music, it captured the heart of Kashi Johnson.

Johnson, a professor at Lehigh University, is a member of the vanguard that aims to introduce and expand the hip hop pedagogy such that it permeates curriculums and cultures alike, elucidating connections and lenses otherwise clouded.

“Come one, come all, live through the hip hop lens,” she implores, adeptly distinguishing the culture and experience of hip hop from the perception that it is just another genre of music.

Falling in love with the music in third grade, learning, memorizing, and absorbing all of the words to the 1979 trailblazer (all 14 and a half minutes of it, mind you), Johnson soon discovered that the real power of hip hop was less in the music itself than it was in the ways it forged connections. Even at a young age, Johnson was keen to the fact that her ability to jump in rap along to the song when the boys in her class forgot the lyrics bought her respect that she never would have otherwise earned.

Hip hop was her equalizer.

With that equalizer in hand, Johnson went on to pioneer the hip hop pedagogy, and without it or her impact, the institution and the value of hip hop theater would be diminished. Johnson’s efforts were validated when she was tenured by a prestigious university, but her influence on the field, as evidenced by her growing national acclaim, suggests that her pedagogy has played a role in the acceptance of hip hop theater as an art form.

That said, the very fact that hip hop theater exists is a testament to its efficacy; hip hop theater, especially hip hop theater stemming from the vein of the hip hop pedagogy, provides a voice and an interface with which the marginalized or dismissed can communicate with the masses – masses which might otherwise be unreceptive.

As such, it is paramount to the continued success of hip hop theater that more people are equipped to communicate with the increasingly pervasive parlance of hip hop.

Johnson, on an individual level with her classes, and on a wholesale level with her influence, strives to equip as many people as possible with the ability to communicate through hip hop.

The culture of hip hop invites the diversity on which it thrives. “In the space of hip hop, it doesn’t matter who you are, it matter what you bring to the table and how you represent,” explained Johnson, “it ain’t where you’re from, its where you’re at.” The fact that hip hop is judged on its merit and not its origin contributes to its universality and its inclusivity.

Through the lens of Johnson, one can see all of the facets of hip hop that make it profound and powerful. While videos of her old students rapping played on the screen, Johnson mouthed along to every word of every student; the passion she showed for her student’s work is not only indicative of the passion she has for hip hop as an art, but also is indicative of the strength of the bonds it can create.

When asked about the ways in which she accommodates for minority or marginalized students, Johnson abruptly, reflexively responded, “I don’t,” before going on to explain the fact that she doesn’t have to accommodate because in her classroom “we just are,” and that the group is “all family, all the time.” This is particularly impressive because it illustrates the unifying power she wields through hip hop and the strength of connections she forges, not only between her and her students, but also between her students and the community.

Utilizing Shakespeare in her classroom, putting the classics to beats so that they play like modern rap or spoken word pieces emphasizes and illuminates the commonalities between the way we all speak and serves to illustrate the connections and intersections between culture to purvey the universality of hip hop.

Constantly expanding the reach of the hip hop parlance, Johnson serves the ubiquity of hip hop by engaging more and more people in the discussion

Anyone can contribute; anyone can get involved in the conversation, and when the goal of that conversation is to open an important dialogue, the fact that hip hop is universal, and the fact that hip hop is inclusive allows an expansion of discourse unlike that of any other avenue.

Most importantly, Johnson grants a voice to the voiceless. “Hip hop empowers students to step into discomfort, it creates the opportunity to excel.”

“People say the most amazing things if you take the time to listen. Put it to a beat? Forget it.”–**RJ Olski ‘18**

From the faculty editor:
I know almost nothing about theatre. So when I tasked my Intro to Narrative Journalism class to write stories about theatre my goal was to create something that would appeal to neophytes like myself. They were challenged to combine journalistic reporting with creative storytelling techniques to create vivid and compelling stories. The result is a vignette of two student productions, from the rehearsal room to the stage as well as a peek into the world of hip-hop theatre. They explored the process of putting a production together and examined how these artists connect to an audience. The result is a unique perspective on the art of performance that I hope intrigues you as much as it did me.

A special shout out to Scott Snyder and to all the students who kindly let my reporters invade their sacred space and witness the magic of theatre at Muhlenberg.

—SV

BERG BEAT Magazine
Faculty Editor: Sara Vigneri

The Muhlenberg Weekly
Gregory Kantor, Editor-in-Chief
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Sexual assault: finding the words

It's not easy to talk about. But it can be easy – all too easy – to do. Sexual harassment and assault have emerged as the most high-profile, hot-button issues of the past year, covering an immense range of highly public incidents from the revelation that Today Show host Matt Lauer kept a secret button under his desk that would lock his office doors to the accusations made against comedian Aziz Ansari. The latter incident left many feeling uneasy and needing to parse the terms used to describe a debate that still continues. Still, we cannot ignore the liminal space occupied by that all-too-common tale of a perpetrator who believed they did no wrong nevertheless finding themselves caught unaware by accusations of assault.

You may have heard statistics about rape in the United States — one in five women and one in 71 men, they say, will be raped in their lifetimes — but the National Sexual Violence Resource Center has also released numbers that tell a more complex narrative. In a 2010 survey, 46.4 percent of lesbians, 74.9 percent of bisexual women and 43.3 percent of heterosexual women reported experiencing incidents of sexual violence that were not rape, while 40.2 percent of gay men, 47.4 percent of bisexual men and 20.8 percent of heterosexual men experienced the same. According to these values, women are almost three times as likely and men are almost 25 times as likely to experience "sexual violence" rather than rape, and this survey does not even take into account the further variances of gender identity, race, income, abilities and more that go beyond the simplified and outdated division of male and female.

But what does "sexual violence" mean? Does it include Ansari's actions, which, as Michelle Rajan '21 wrote in an article published last issue, seem to have been taken as cues from popular narratives, where men are rewarded for their "persistence" with eventually requited love?

The answer is that the language used to describe these occurrences is insufficiently clear. Without the ability to articulate and clearly delineate what constitutes assault, harassment, misconduct or any other terms of variously connotated severity, proper action cannot be taken against any of these wrongdoings. Certainly, the consequences for someone who gropes someone else without their consent should be different than those for someone who catcalls from a distance, but what exactly should that difference be? With the definitions for each of these terms floating in a gray area, a solution seems out of reach.

Still, perhaps that solution need not start at the end of the story, when someone has already been hurt and the action cannot be undone, but at the beginning — by working to maximize education about the importance and parameters of consent and adding a focus on the less obvious examples of sexual misconduct that many more people are likely to find themselves in. Here is where labels for different degrees and forms of assault may be useful, as people could be made aware of actions they may never have known caused harm. By not grouping in the Ansaris with the Lauers, by paying special attention to the causes of each and investigating how they can be specially addressed in their own specific ways — whether it be working to redesign the popular image of the relentless romantic or instituting sexual harassment training in workplaces nationwide — the gray area becomes not a stark binary between bad and good, but a multiplicity of very real scenarios, each with their own course of action to address the problem. Of course, there is no way to make a template to fit each and every situation, but perhaps widening the scope of known ones and spending some time collaboratively thinking about what allowed them to happen and what happens next is a start.

Here at Muhlenberg, that start begins with conversation and education. Beyond simply taking matters to trial if the situation is deemed severe enough, there need to be discussions about what "severe enough" means, and how to deal with and support those involved in incidents that don't meet that requirement but still result in harm to survivors. There needs to be more than a simple online course or session of wellness class dedicated to educating students of all ages about navigating sexual or romantic encounters. But above all, there needs to be widespread acknowledgement that this problem exists, even here.

From the Editorial Board of
The Muhlenberg Weekly

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Graphic Opinions:
Grayson's Ginger Army

PHOTO COURTESY OF DC COMICS

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

As someone who is an avid reader of comics, I will be the first to admit that they're unrealistic and I have just about nothing in common with some of my favorite characters. Truthfully the only commonality I can really think of is that both some of my favorites and I have red hair and a deep love for Dick Grayson, the first Robin.

In the world of DC Comics, there are many deep relationships built between the characters over the course of the company's long run and numerous overlapping series. Dick Grayson tends to be at the center of a lot of them. However, he gets enough attention as is so I'm going to focus on some fellow gingers.

When asked what my all time favorite comic book character is the answer is, without a doubt, Barbara Gordon — the original Batgirl, the genius hacker and leader of the Birds of Prey Oracle and daughter of the Gotham City Police Commissioner James Gordon. On top of all of this, she has an eidetic memory and has continued her career as superhero after being paralyzed from the waist down during an attack by the Joker. Babs is also the longtime on again/off again girlfriend of Dick, and even when they're not dating, they stay extremely close and ask each other's advice on everything from cases to their current love life. There's so much about Babs that I love, I could write an entire column on just her, but for now you're stuck with the CliffNotes version.

Another sometimes girlfriend is Koriand'r, better known as Starfire, the princess of the alien planet Tamaran and member of the Teen Titans. With her flight, super strength and energy blasts (starbolts), she is easily the powerhouse of any team and has even gone toe-to-toe with Wonder Woman. However, Starfire is best known for her compassion and empathy, reasons that Dick fell in love with her in the first place, as shown in her curating a garden of alien plants from lost worlds in her free time at Titans Tower.

The last two to round out Dick Grayson's favorite redheads are two fellow Teen Titans. While they don't always get along Wally West, aka Kid Flash and the Flash, and Roy Harper, aka Speedy and Arsenal, are Dick's two closest friends. Wally got superspeed when visiting his aunt in Central City and meeting his hero the Flash, only to learn that his aunt's boyfriend Barry Allen was the Flash. He then became Kid Flash and when his Uncle Barry disappeared he took over the mantle of the Flash. Wally is the fastest speedster in the DCU and in current issues can even temporarily stop time.

Both Wally and Roy are fun loving, flirty, and hot-headed — and yet they tend to turn their tempers on each other. Roy was taken in by Green Arrow and became his protegee Speedy. He had a rough life as a teenager, getting addicted to heroine and fathering a child with the assassin Cheshire but after the birth of his daughter, Lian, Roy turned his life around. He was even a member of the Justice League while being a loving full time father.

Dick Grayson shows up in almost every DC title at some point, he's just one of those characters, but it's his fiery haired friends who really steal the show. These four characters are just a handful of redheaded DC characters that he interacts with on a regular basis in the comics and other media alike, such as Batwoman, Miss Martian and even Wally's daughter Irey whom Dick is one of the godparents of. Between their sass and compassion it's fair to say that these four far outshine their more famous friend.

With the exaggerated style of comic books it's hard to relate to the characters and their problems. However, the closer you look at them the more you can find elements of yourself in them. I like to think I have their smarts and courage, but at the very least, I take comfort in sharing their hair color.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Social (and so much more) media

By Emily Davidson
Senior Staff Writer

Did you work-out today? What did you eat? Was it so aesthetically pleasing you could upload it to Instagram without a filter? Or was it one of those images you just stow away on your VSCO? How was your weekend? What did everyone else eat today? Did they work-out? How was everyone else's weekend?

This information overload is what we subject ourselves to, sometimes daily or even hourly, through our use of social media. We are the millennials that catapulted ourselves from AIM (confession: my username was Soccerpup712) to MySpace to the status quo trio of Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. And I would certainly be remiss if I didn't mention Snapchat, YouTube and Tumblr, among others.

We connect with each other through multiple channels and each of these channels occupy our time and attention. By no means is all social media bad, as it maintains a way to express valuable sentiments and ideas to those both close and far and efficaciously, as we can instantly reach audiences of hundreds and thousands through a click, through a share. Social media enables us to share others pieces of our beautiful world around us we find worthy of sharing.

I had the valuable opportunity this past weekend to run at arguably one of the most historic indoor track facilities in the nation, so naturally, I shared pictures of the Armory on both my Snapchat and Instagram. I was thoroughly enthusiastic to be running on the same track as my favorite professional runners and Olympians. Heck, I didn't post one Snapchat — I posted like three. Also, as a senior on the brink of graduation, I am very dependent on social media to stay in touch with both my professors and peers.

However, our current inundation of social media applications is accumulating substantial evidence which support both its overuse and threat to both mental and physical health. It's quite ironic that what is supposed to make us feel so connected actually contributes to us feeling detached. Studies have supported a positive association between the odds of social isolation and social media use, in terms of both frequency and time. (1) Social isolation doesn't just pose ramifications for mental health, but can also influence physical well-being and is linked to conditions such as obesity. Furthermore, additional research supports how the amount of social media applications used is associated with both symptoms of depression and anxiety (2). The amount of different social media outlets you use can potentially impact mental health.

My point isn't to vilify all forms of social media. A survey in the UK appraised both positive and negative attributes of social media, supporting how use of social media facilitates self-identity, a channel for self-expression, and provides emotional support. The darker side of the survey revealed outcomes pertaining to bullying, perception of body image, depression, and anxiety.

My point is to clarify the difference between social media use and misuse and to recognize modern day social media is so much more than just social media. It's essential to recognize the connections we cherish and the experiences we want to share. It's also important to be cognizant of the conscious and subconscious self-comparisons and the time we devote to our virtual selves and virtual presence.

There is a chance to promote a dark cycle through social media wherein you spend periods of time comparing yourself to others. Instead of investing that valuable time in to yourself, it is seized by social media. Thus, the cycle continues, as you make more comparisons and devote more time in to what you are not instead of focusing in on who you are, or want to be.

The chance to invest that time in to your real life, in to meaningful interactions with others around you in the tangible world, should not be robbed of us by social media.

Our use of social media should not inhibit us to enjoy who we are, improve ourselves to who we want to be, and live the life we want to live.

Decrepit practice rooms in desperate need of an upgrade

By Ji Ku
Contributing Writer

Walking down the stairs of the CA basement, I clutch my keys to my violin locker as I go to Chamber Orchestra. But as I march down the stairs, the dissonance of high pitch vocal vibrations and rhythmic violin solos echo throughout what was supposed to be the quiet hallway. The practice rooms under the CA basement are offered to both vocalists and instrumentalists to improve and enhance their skills for any upcoming auditions, rehearsals, performances, or concerts. Nonetheless, the practice room does not do justice to the talented Muhlenberg students: they are not soundproof, in poor condition, and lacking in numbers.

The number one priority should be to block out the sounds coming from the practice rooms. In each room students are trying to master pieces or parts that are essential for beautiful performances. But, due to inadequate practice rooms, their sounds leak into adjacent rooms and even out in the hallways. Sometimes lessons are held inside the practice rooms, and students cannot learn without being disrupted by their fellow peers.

> **Nonetheless, the practice room does not do justice to the talented Muhlenberg students: they are not soundproof, they are in poor conditions, and they are lacking in numbers.**

It is tragic that students' concentrations are all too often ruined due to a lack of soundproofing. Hence, it is with most urgent desire that some actions are taken to enhance and improve the sound proofing systems inside the practice rooms so students no longer inadvertently disrupt each other.

On top of that, the practice rooms are also in poor condition. The existing sound boards are tearing apart, the tiles are chipped, and some of the tiles are even missing. This displays a lack of professionalism, especially to prospective students visiting Muhlenberg for auditions. In order to warm up, one must enter these most depressingly conditioned practice rooms, and when those prospective students see them, surely they will only be able to think negatively toward the College as a whole. By renovating the practice rooms to optimal conditions, and even beautifying the rooms, not only will the prospective students look with positive viewpoint, but also current students will be more motivated to practice inside the room.

Finally, there are just too few practice rooms to incorporate both vocalists and instrumentalists. Vocalists and Instrumentalists often have to prepare for auditions, rehearsals, and performances/concerts. Most of the time, the dates for such occasions overlap one group after another. Hence, even if many of the students are eager to improve, neither group can use the practice rooms at the same time. I propose that two separate practice room areas are made so that vocalists and instrumentalists can have practice rooms at the same time.

Many of the complains have been made by students, and some music faculty members may have heard such negative feedbacks, yet still no actions have been taken after several years of being in this state. We as students, have the right to receive better facilitated practice rooms so that our musical career is not hindered by the outside environment — Muhlenberg desperately needs to renovate and expand the practice rooms to better serve its students.

History comes alive in Hamilton

By Brooke Greenberg
Contributing Writer

It started with a man and a dream — well, actually two men and two dreams. Over 200 years ago, Alexander Hamilton had the dream of making a change as an immigrant. More recently, Lin Manuel-Miranda had the dream of bringing that immigrant man's dream to life in the form of something completely unexpected — a musical.

Over winter break, I had the opportunity to witness this incredible piece of art. Having never been a history buff and, quite frankly, someone who has found American history boring, I came in expecting that the show would consist of an uninteresting story with mesmerizing music. But from the moment when "Alexander Hamilton" started, I realized I had never been more wrong in my life.

Throughout the show, there was no speaking — only singing and dancing — which resulted in a spectacular piece of art on something that many Americans likely do not care much about. Even Michelle Obama says it was the most incredible work of art in any form she has ever seen. Inspired by Ron Chenrow's book, "Alexander Hamilton," the idea was born. Now, Hamilton tickets are sold out for months and people singing the songs in their sleep.

I feel that "Hamilton" is worth the hype because of its ability to bring history alive; Alexander Hamilton's story jumps off the page, onto the stage and in front of your face. Every single word of every single song is something that happened in American history. Everything from Hamilton's affair with Maria Reynolds, the Battle of Yorktown which was the breakup with Great Britain and The United States to Hamilton's writing is something impactful and meaningful. It is only now, that we come to terms with realizing that something that seems as ordinary as history, can be turned extraordinary through a musical.

Reflecting back on my Hamilton experience, I cannot begin to express how much my life has been changed by the show. I have a deeper understanding of the roots of America's Founding Fathers and how they connected both professionally and privately.

Seeing Hamilton should not only be seen as a Broadway experience, but as an educational one, too.

It's Always Sunny in the LSC

Foul weather still means fair game for Men's and Women's Golf with the help of their indoor golf simulator

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

During the winter months fans might expect a lull in the action of a Muhlenberg College golfer. This lull used to be typical, explained Head Men's and Women's Golf Coach John Librick. "We had no place to swing a club, there was no place for the team to hang out... bottom line, there was no place to swing a club."

However, since fall 2016 , once Muhlenberg's golfers walk into the Life Sports Center and escape the cold and snowy days, only a few long hallways are all that stand between them and a driving range, legendary golf courses such as Pebble Beach and Augusta National and a separate putting green.

Well, the golfer's clubhouse is actually just a room with a large screen, a putting green and a few couches. But what livens the room with energy and technology is the FlightScope TrackMan – a white, rectangular device that could pass for an average middle schoolers lunchbox if quickly glanced at. Using a computer software program and the TrackMan, a few clicks on a computer turns the clubhouse into a state of the art practice facility.

The FlightScope TrackMan found a home at Muhlenberg thanks to a few visionaries who originally suggested the idea to the Athletic Department's administration. "A couple of the players did a slide show presentation to our Athletic director," explained Librick. "The presentation included the various simulators and the cost of each and their opinion on what would be the best for our team. It also included how the clubhouse should be set up."

After the team's plan of action was accepted by athletics, two parents decided to match a set amount of donations from other alumni. "Together with the Athletic Department, alumni and parents working as a team we were able to make this room a reality," said Librick.

Each golfer can step up to a small patch of artificial turf carpeting about 10 yards from a projector screen which covers a whole wall of the clubhouse. With the Flightscope sitting just a few feet behind the turf patch, golfers can hit any club into the screen which shows a projection of the driving range or selected golf course. Using combined camera and radar tracking technology, the monitor can analyze ball speed, club-head velocity, angle of attack, spin rate, shot distance and other critical golf measure and spit out the data in seconds.

"From a strictly technical standpoint the simulator gives every player statistical feedback," said Evan Overcash '18. "Simulators provide a great supplement to one's development as a player. You have mathematical evidence behind the result of a shot and can adjust your swing or equipment to improve your game."

Many of Muhlenberg's golfers have explicitly described the importance of the precise measures the radar captures much like Overcash explained. "For me the most useful aspects is being able to see your swing as a burst of photos," explained Women's Golfer Kat Hodges '20. She uses the "frame by frame" pictures to track a closed or open club face. Hodges also appreciated being able to reach out to Librick even when the he is off campus, allowing the golfers to practice on their own time and still receive feedback without needing a coach physically present.

Men's Golfer Ellis Focht '19 remembers what inclement weather used to mean without the simulator at Muhlenberg. "During my freshman year we didn't have any way to practice until our spring break trip to Florida during March. If it was raining hard enough in-season the course would be closed and we would have to take the day off."

The benefits of being able to practice during the offseason has significantly increased the lag the team may face early in a season. Now golfers are able to enter the season in peak performance rather than using the first few matches find their swing technique. "There has been an improvement in our team's performance at the start of the season, especially leading up to our first tournaments in the spring. We have less rust to knock off which helps us play better earlier in the season," said Focht.

The clubhouse with the Trackman can also be used as a recruiting tool for Muhlenberg to confidently and competitively engage talented high schoolers. Featuring five women from five different states, the diverse team has golfers that come from coast to coast. Hodges explained her transition from growing up in Texas to being a collegiate golfer at Muhlenberg. "In Texas golfing is year round so I have never really relied on a simulator before," said Hodges. Despite the difference in location, the simulator takes away certain risks many southern golfers may have when deciding to go to a college in the north where weather does not always cooperate. "It's very easy for me to get into a routine of practicing every day and working on my game like when I am in season or back at home," Hodges continued.

Overcash echoed similar praises as Hodges. "When I first came to Muhlenberg and joined the golf team I was impressed by the facility the team was able to use at Lehigh Country Club. It is an amazing course and the practice facility is first class. What I did not realize was how important an indoor facility was." Being that golf is a fall and spring sport, the importance of a seasonal practice facility means a lot to those who like to include varsity golf in their college experience.

The total efforts and costs of the simulator have seemingly been worth it, as the Muhlenberg Men's and Women's programs have both experienced strong individual and team performances during the simulator's tenure. Just this fall teams since the 2016-17 season the Men's team has placed in the top three in ten out of 18 tournaments. The Women's team won three out of six matches which team scores were kept.

With the spring season rapidly approaching at the end of March, Coach Librick is expecting to waste no time getting off to a solid start. "I have seen improvement with the golfers as a whole. When we finally do get outside they have already grooved their swing. The team seems to get off to a better start in the spring since we have the simulator."

FlightScope
Shot Plot
Name ashley
7-Iron

Libby Juliano / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Ashley Noel '18 takes advantage of the climate control in the clubhouse, equipped with a state of the art golf simulator.

FROM **PLOTKE** PAGE 12

"Playing across the world representing my country was such a great experience," said Plotke. "Not only that, but connecting with other Jewish athletes from all over the world was an experience like no other."

Long before competing in the Maccabiah Games, Plotke discovered her knack for basketball almost accidentally. Her older brother, Aaron, got a basketball hoop as a gift, but it was the younger Plotke who was always shooting around in the driveway. Aaron and his friends would raise the height of the rim to 10 feet every time they played. This infuriated Plotke who, even at eight-years-old, already took the game seriously.

From that moment on, Plotke could be found on the court any chance she got - during recess, after school, eventually working her way onto the middle school team, Amateur Athletic Union teams and the Jewish Community Center boys basketball travel team.

But despite her extensive pre-high school resume, and her improved shooting abilities, Plotke was still at a disadvantage because of one thing. Her height.

"In terms of my height, I think most people have underestimated my abilities," said Plotke. "In middle and high school, my height wasn't such a factor because most people were of similar height as me. But as the level of competition increased in college, I'm typically one of the smallest players on the court. I've only used that as motivation. I wouldn't say that's a negative thing. In fact, I've used it to my advantage. Being smaller on the court means that I've had to be smarter."

For Plotke, that meant better shooting. She never wanted to let go of the ball - unless it was to send it to the net. In high school, Plotke - a four-time conference all-star and two-year captain at Hamden Hall Country Day School - scored 1,730 points and made 319 three-pointers.

There's no denying Plotke knows how to shoot a basketball. She scored eight points in just nine minutes in her first career game at Muhlenberg. During her sophomore season, she led the nation in three-point shooting percentage and made 98.2 percent of her free throws, including breaking the previously held Centennial Conference record with 55 in a row. Whether she says so or not, she was instrumental in Muhlenberg's Centennial Conference championship that year.

"During my sophomore year, winning the Centennial Conference championship at home is one of my favorite memories," said Plotke. "I remember the student section filled up the gym with their loud cheering, to the point where I couldn't hear coach Rohn or my teammates calling out plays. The atmosphere is one I don't think can ever be replicated."

During Plotke's junior year, she played just 19 games due to injury, but still finished second on the team in scoring. She made every single one of her free throws that year.

And this year she hit another milestone, sending one of her three-pointers through the net to go over the 1,000 point mark. With that, a little over a week after Brandi Vallely '18, Plotke became the 12th woman and 36th overall player to hit 1,000.

FROM **WRESTLING** PAGE 12

throughout the season. “I don’t know if the poise aspect would’ve been there a couple of months ago.”

McLean also enjoyed seeing Cerminara’s confidence throughout the day, which he hopes will continue to be present in the last, and most important, matches of the season. “He should have a little swagger about him going into the next few weeks. I expect some good things out of him.”

Moving forward Cerminara looks to continue dominating his weight class at NCAA Regionals. He outlined his three goals as finishing in the top three in the region, qualifying for nationals, and being named an All-American. The recipe to continue executing? Knowing he still has room to grow. “I am preparing for regionals by continuing to improve and focus on the areas that need work and by working as hard as I can.”

The Mules were also able to send two more wrestlers to the podium who both captured bronze medals. Austin Sherman ‘20 and Dylan Schwartz ‘20 each earned their first career medals, wrestling at 133 and 165, respectively. McLean was most impressed with their ability to overcome semi-final losses in their 3rd place match. “They bounced back mentally and physically after tough and disappointing semi-final losses and both had to win two matches,” said McLean.

McLean also mentioned Scott Schaeffer ‘20 who competed despite not being at full strength. “He showed a ton of heart. He is already undersized at heavyweight giving up as much as 40 pounds at times. He always gives us his all and did so yesterday as well.”

The Mules have a two week layoff before NCAA Regionals in Ithaca, N.Y.. In the meantime the team has a final duel match scheduled against Liberty University. “We need to get healthy,” said McLean about the final few weeks of the season. “We are going to work on our confidence, conditioning and poise. We will be watching film and tweaking what we are good at and fixing what we aren’t good at.”

From freshman to seniors, Mules lacrosse is a team effort

The Muhlenberg men’s lacrosse team huddles together during a practice at Scotty Wood Stadium.

By Jordy Bonvini
Senior Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg men’s lacrosse team is scheduled to open their season with a game against Immaculata in Scotty Wood Stadium on Feb.17 at 3:00 p.m.

The Mules are coming off a 2-12 season but are looking to improve. With 17 games on the schedule, Muhlenberg is looking to dominate their nine non-conference games and play competitively against the Centennial Conference, which has proven to be a dominant league across Division III lacrosse.

Last season, the CC consisted of three top 20 NCAA teams. Dickinson, Gettysburg and Franklin & Marshall were all ranked by the USILA Coaches Association. While Muhlenberg’s 2018 senior class has never captured a Centennial Conference win, they are hungry to defeat one of their rivals before they graduate.

After speaking to the team’s President of Player Operations, Will Edwards ‘18 explained their key strategies in order to play competitively this season.

“With so many numbers on our team, it’s important for us to put the best group of guys together out on the field, whether they’re a senior or a freshman, we want to put out the best players,” said Edwards.

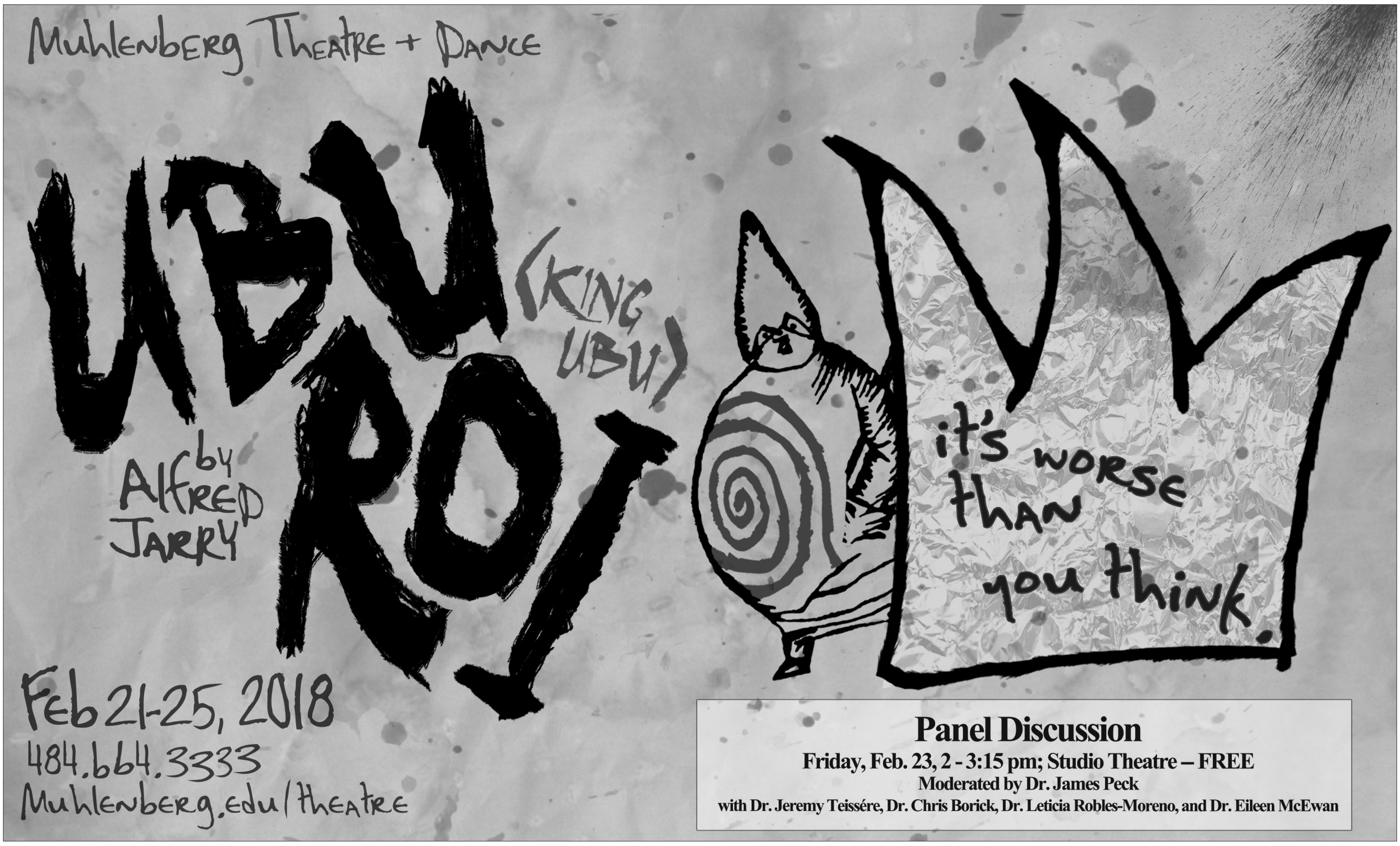
With 52 players on the roster, the Mules have strong potential from any particular grade. With Frankie Feaster ‘20, Nolan Robbins ‘19, Kevin Bergenty ‘18 and Joey Hess ‘18, the Mules have four key contributors returning who look to help guide the underclassmen in the right direction. Edwards explained, “We want to have a good mix between upper and underclassmen in order to be a strong unit on the field.” No matter what the age is, Coach Jake Plunkett looks to put the best contributors out on the field in order to stay competitive within the game.

The freshman class is arguably one of the most talented recruiting classes Plunkett has brought in so far in his three year career at Muhlenberg. The freshman class consists of 32 freshman and the Mules are looking to sculpt them into being dominant collegiate athletes. “They are at the skill level to be able to compete for a starting position and play a larger role on the field just as freshmen,” Edwards explained about the class of 2021.

The large freshman class is not the only impactful addition the lacrosse team will add to the Scotty Wood sidelines in 2018. The hiring of Alex Stone as the new defensive and recruiting coordinator was an important offseason acquisition for the program. Stone comes to Allentown after a four year stint at Bard College, where he was an assistant coach for one season before being promoted to head coach for the following three.

A highlight of Stone’s coaching career occured in his first as season Bard’s head coach. In a victory later credited as the biggest upset in 2015 Division III play by laxpower.com, Bard defeated Skidmore by a score of 9-8. With a very successful player and coaching career, Stone will offer the Mules a lot of insight especially on the defensive end.

With a solid group of returners and a large freshman class, the Mules plan on bringing their competitive edge to the field in order to compete with conference contenders.



Panel Discussion
Friday, Feb. 23, 2 - 3:15 pm; Studio Theatre – FREE
Moderated by Dr. James Peck
with Dr. Jeremy Teissére, Dr. Chris Borick, Dr. Leticia Robles-Moreno, and Dr. Eileen McEwan

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Coming up this week in

SPORTS

Men's Basketball

vs

Sat. Feb. 17 at 2:00 p.m.
Westminster, MD

Women's Basketball

vs

Sat. Feb. 17 at 2:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Bound for glory:

The seniors on the Women's basketball team have won 86 games during their Muhlenberg tenure and filled the record books. On Saturday, they will host their annual senior day as they take on McDaniel.

Track and Field

Keogh Invitational

Sat. Feb. 17
Haverford, PA

Wrestling

vs

Sat. Feb. 17
Memorial Hall

Men's Lacrosse

vs

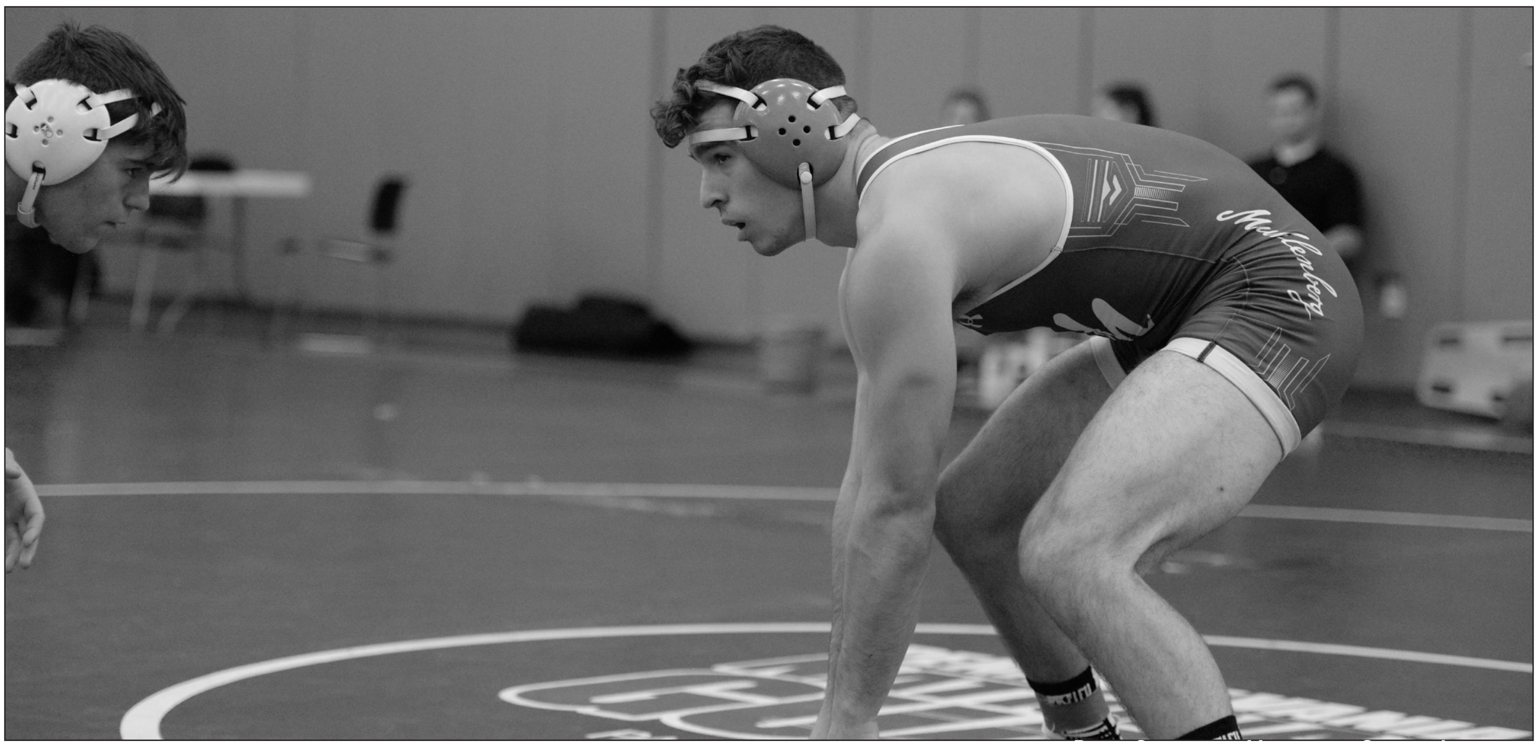
Sat. Feb. 17 at 6:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

Men's Tennis

vs

Sat. Feb. 17 at 1:00/4:00 p.m.
Swarthmore, PA

Cerminara: Centennial Conference Champion



Cerminara '19 faces off against an opponent at the Ned McGinley invitational, finishing third in the 197 weight class that day.

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

Muhlenberg Head Wrestling Coach Jason McLean was proud of the efforts his team gave that landed three Mules on the podium after the Centennial Conference Champions concluded Feb. 10 at Washington and Lee College.

"We accomplished some good things and met some goals," said McLean. "Unfortunately, we were missing guys due to illness and injury so we did not give ourselves much of a chance in the team standings."

Despite the low finish for the team in the overall standings, the highlight of the day was Gennaro Cerminara '19, who pinned his opponent in the championship match's third overtime round.

"I felt really good. I was mentally focused and knew that I could win a championship. I felt very ready to go when I woke up, almost laser-focused," explained Cerminara. The laser focus was enough to keep him poised throughout the exhausting day, which included three matches he had to push through before being crowned the conference champion in the 197 weight class.

"The first match was good because I was able to get moving, but also get on and off the mat with a pin," said Cerminara. "The second match went pretty well too. I was able to hold off any scoring and able to control the whole match."

After confidently controlling his first two matches Cerminara stepped onto the mat for the third and final time that day in an all-or-nothing championship match against Merchant Marine's Blake Bunce. At the end of regulation Cerminara and Bunce were knotted at a 5-5 score.

"Going into the first overtime period I knew that he was tired and that the chance of me pinning him was high if I got him on his back," said Cerminara. In the first two tie-breaker periods there was only one score change when Bunce scored to go into the third overtime leading 6-5.

The third overtime was when Cerminara realized his chances to battle back were running low. "When the third OT started I looked at my coach and he gave me the go ahead to pin him. I just used all the energy I had left to execute the move." And execute he did. After starting in the down position the victory was locked in when Cerminara stood up and pinned Bunce.

His last stop of the day was to the podium where he proudly wore his gold medal around his neck. Also proud was his coach. "(Gennaro) showed a lot of poise and focus," explained McLean who praised his athlete's efforts to grow mentally and physically

SEE **Wrestling** PAGE 11

Earning a grand: Rachel Plotke

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

Rachel Plotke stands on a dock 5,639 miles from her Woodbridge, Conn. hometown. In most situations, water looks the same, no matter where it is. But tonight, she stands with her teammates, their coach having brought them here to watch the Mediterranean sunset. Plotke, at 5-foot-4, positions herself next to some of the most talented Jewish girls in the nation, including Drew Edelman, a USC commit who stands a foot taller.

Tonight, Plotke watches the sunset.

Tomorrow, she will win the gold medal with Team USA at the 19th Maccabiah Games.

Plotke earned her spot on Team USA and in the Games in non-traditional fashion. She missed the tryouts but, still eager to find a way to play, sent head coach Sherry Levin her highlight tape. Levin liked what she saw and Plotke was offered a spot on the roster. However, for her, it was more than just another opportunity to play.

The Maccabiah Games not only allowed Plotke the unique opportunity to compete on an international level - in a Jewish-only, Olympics-style competition - but also allowed her to be immersed in her Jewish culture.

SEE **Plotke** PAGE 10

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Athletics

Rachel Plotke '18 (#2) drives to the basket in the Mules win at Johns Hopkins in December.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

Music, Food, and Lanterns

Students connect in celebration at the Lunar New Year Festival.

read more on page 5

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VOLUME CXL, ISSUE 13
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NEWS

The new Master plan includes the destruction of the John Peter Gabriel House — learn the history from Karl Schultz before it's gone.

read more on 4

ARTS & CULTURE

Explore the possibilities of the body through Six Meters, Muhlenberg's movement improvisation group created by dance lecturer Susan Creitz.

read more on 5

OP/ED

Editorial: In wake of the most recent mass school shooting, students use social media platforms as a way to cope, but also to fight back.

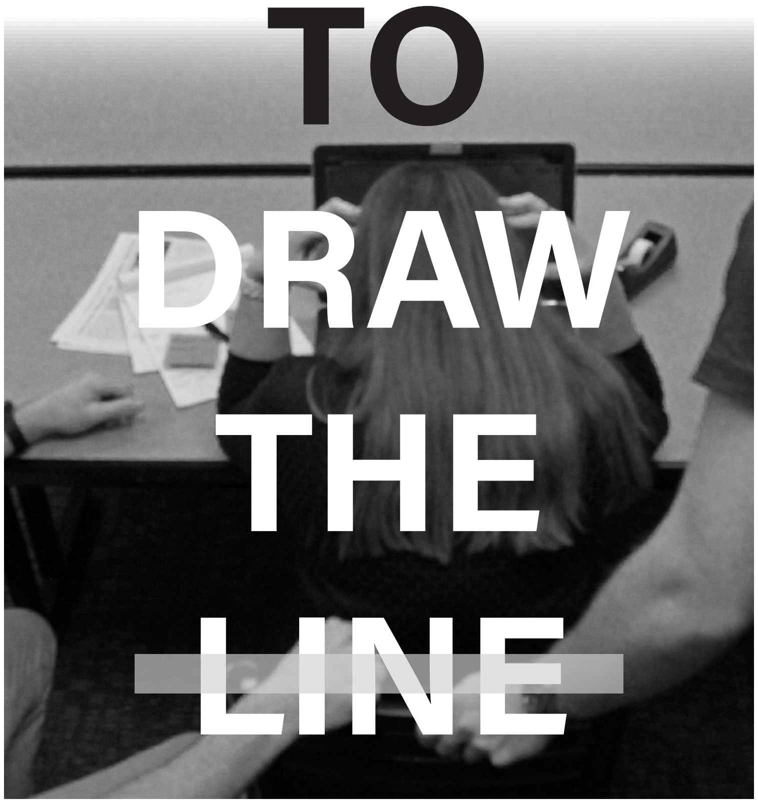
read more on 8

SPORTS

The final "Earning a Grand": A profile of Nick Rindock conclues our series on this year's Mules who scored 1,000 career points.

read more on 12

WHERE TO DRAW THE ~~LINE~~



Students either don't know or don't trust how the administration would handle cases of sexual harassment, discouraging them to report.

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

Everybody, including you, knows that one person on campus. The person that tells jokes that are over the line, is a little too touchy feeling, compliments things that you'd rather they didn't notice, makes you squirm when you see them walking down the same sidewalk. To them, it may be normal behavior but it makes you uncomfortable. For you, it's not a joke or just being friendly — it's harassment.

Yet when students were approached at random what they thought of how the school handles incidents of sexual harassment, many students were unable to answer.

"I don't really know much about how the school handles sexual harassment here," said Sara Kalet-Schwartz '21.

"I'm not really familiar with it but I think there's always room for improvement, I guess," said Kayla Niemasz '20.

"I'm not very familiar with the way they handle anything, so I don't think I could answer that," said Elijah Ackerman '18.

A group of students huddled around a table echoed the same sentiment saying, "We don't know anything. We don't know enough about that to answer."

Only one student, Alexis Pellechio '18, was able to give a more holistic answer: "I have heard many students state that they wish the school would take a hard stance against sexual harassment on campus and work for the victim. I have heard of many instances where victims

see **Harassment** page 3

Silver linings in and around our carbon footprint

By Ian Adler
Layout Editor

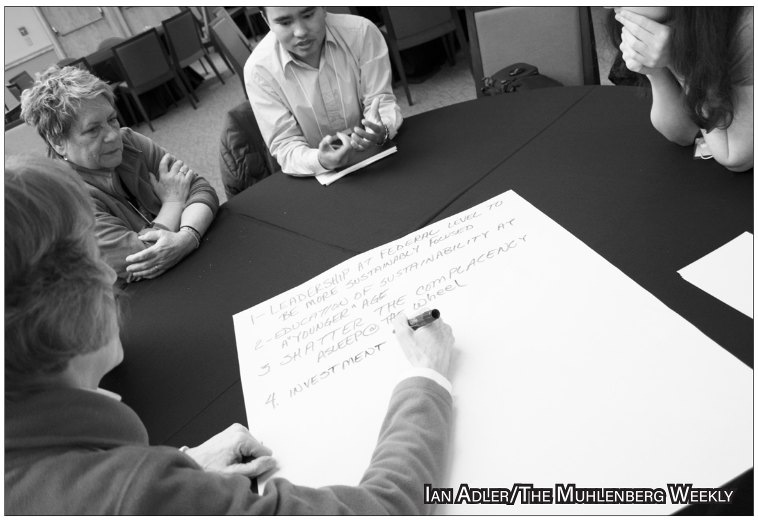
Even though it's 2018, sustainability still isn't really the 'cool' thing to do – (hardly anyone) gets excited about shorter showers, reusable Java Joe's mugs and biodegradable straws. What many aren't able to see, however, is just how simple, practical and appealing being 'sustainable' can be, a key theme highlighted at this year's Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC) Sustainability Conference.

The Conference, hosted by Lafayette College in Easton on Feb. 17, brought together a whole host of like-minded Lehigh Valley students, faculty and 'greenies' to listen, learn and share their ideas for a sustainable future.

"To make a social change, we don't need everyone on board," said Kirsi Jansa, the event's keynote speaker and a documentary filmmaker and journalist. "We're different and we have different views. I don't need to convince you, but I'm interested in where you come from and instead of trying to battle and convince the other person, somehow bring civility and respect to an open dialogue and conversation – if we can do that and then mitigate climate change, I think that's a step forward."

During her presentation, Jansa stressed the idea of "climate-change-as-a-system," derived from the idea of interaction between different systems of all locales and magnitudes – something she understands will eventually "balance themselves."

"When I think of a system, I think of interconnected pieces – Muhlenberg has a sustainability department and we're focusing on learning about those issues, but I think it's our job to educate everyone on those issues," said Mimi Salters '20, President of EnAct and conference attendee. "Buildings, departments, and offices all need to work together because in order to implement these things and make a difference, everyone kind of has to work as a system and build off of each other.z"



Ian Adler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

During Dr. Patricia DeMarco's workshop, participants discussed and listed their goals for a sustainable future.

The conference itself was structured with Jansa's introductory presentation, followed by rounds of student- and educator-led talks on their experiences with sustainability initiatives. Students from Moravian, Lafayette, DeSales and Lehigh all gave talks ranging from a visit to the UN Climate Conference to sustainable campus farming practices and mindful dining management.

"They [Lafayette] have their own animal conservatory, so I thought it was really interesting how they use the leftover food that couldn't be given to humans to animals," said Salters, on a talk titled "The Loss We Can Gain." "They also went beyond the scope of their individual dining hall and school to look at food and security in Easton – bringing that leftover food that the dining hall cooks but doesn't serve and giving that to people that'll eat it because it's a huge issue," said Salters.

Another midday presentation, titled "Put a Price on it: Solving Climate Change in One Generation," focused on the impact young activists can have on current policy, infrastructure and the overall cost of non-renewables.

see **Sustainability** page 2

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers.

Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition.

However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment.

We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief.

The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, February 12

College Policy Violation - 11:18 a.m.
In Robertson Hall, there was a report of a mini bike found in a room. The owner was spoken to and removed the mini bike from the residence hall.

Injured Student - 10:34 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an injured student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Tuesday, February 13

Drug Violation - 1:52 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and the items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in evidence locker.

Animal Complaint - 4:00 p.m.
In Prosser Annex, there was a report of a cat found in the residence hall. Residential Services was notified, and the cat was removed.

Sick Student - 11:01 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and Cetronia EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital.

Thursday, February 15

Found Property - 1:30 p.m.
In Ettinger Hall, there was a report of a found watch. It is unknown to whom the watch belongs. The watch was placed in a lost and found locker.

Friday, February 16

Injured Visitor - 10:23 a.m.
On the Front Drive, there was a report of an injured visitor. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the individual was transported to the hospital via a friend.

Vehicle Violation - 11:03 a.m.
At an off campus location, there was a report of a parked vehicle that was blocking a neighbor's driveway. Allentown Police Department also responded, and the student arrived and moved the vehicle.

Sick Student - 12:30 p.m.
In Brown Hall, First Floor, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Saturday, February 17

Noise Complaint - 12:40 a.m.
At an off-campus location, there was a report of a noise complaint. The residents were identified and spoken to. Allentown Police Department also responded, and Disruptive Conduct Reports were issued by Muhlenberg College and Allentown.

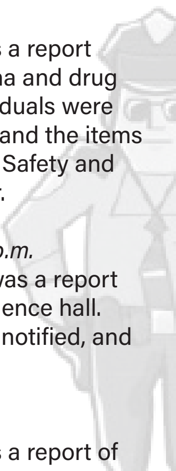
Fire Alarm Sounding - 3:15 a.m.
At 321 North 22nd Street, there was a report of a fire alarm from cooking. The system was silenced and reset.

Point of Information - 5:00 p.m.
In the Courts, there was a report of heating and cooling issues involving thermostats. Residential Services was notified.

Found Property - 11:47 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a found wallet. The owner later claimed the item.

Sunday, February 18

Suspicious Activity - 6:20 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of an individual in a vehicle making comments to a student. The individual left the area.



Ian Adler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

FROM **SUSTAINABILITY** PAGE 1

"We develop the agenda for Congress," said Randy Gyory, a Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) presenter and former Interim Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Philadelphia Gas Works. "Elected officials listen to young people. It totally changes the dynamic."

Gyory stressed CCL's "Carbon Fee and Dividend," plan to place a fee on fossil fuels at the source, return the revenue to households equally and apply a border adjustment on goods imported from or exported to countries without an equivalent price on carbon. You can read more about CCL's plan at citizensclimatelobby.org.

Following the midday presentations and lunch, attendees broke off into more activity-intensive and discussion-based workshops. Dr. Patricia DeMarco, an author and climate advocate, offered one titled "Pathways to Our Sustainable Future - Moving from Awareness to Action."

DeMarco hopes to see more balance between economic, environmental and social spheres, stressing that "we are one part of that interconnected web of life … we are not in charge of it."

"You have to think beyond your 'me first' – it's an intergenerational imperative and a global imperative," said DeMarco. "The living earth itself has a right to exist … What about the rivers? The mountains? The Great Plains? And what about corporations that don't bleed, think, feel? We have to align the laws we want to live by with the laws we know govern nature."

Demarco's ideas of conjunctive, intergenerational action also stem from something as simple as her granddaughter learning to make bread.

"I would like to have her be able to teach her grandchildren how to make bread. That's what sustainability is," added Demarco. "You have to look at the future for the next generation."

DeMarco and Jansa, both experienced environmental advocates, stressed the idea of an inclusive, open-minded and civil dialogue with everyone about climate change and its accompanying systems. Without getting younger generations, union jobs and politicians vocal and on board, the transition to renewables may end up proving to be more difficult than it should be.

Education at the elementary, high school or college levels on sustainably-minded behaviors and practices, as well as an emphasis on positive reinforcement for climate change systems, lie at the root of future change. When asked about social media's ability to influence change, Jansa offered some very encompassing thoughts.

"If you use social media in a creative way and tell your visions of where you want to go, I think that would be a way to do it," said Jansa. "There is a place for the screens, not just a numbing and isolating device but somehow using them in a way so that we can connect and come together face-to-face in groups of people."

Conferences like the one at Lafayette are happening all over the country and serve as a way for environmentalists to work toward creating a cleaner, brighter future for every generation. Tonight, Thursday, Feb. 22, Executive Coordinator of SustainUS Garret Blad will bring the community together in the Great Room for his talk titled "Reframing Climate Change: How we change the story to build power and win." The talk, hosted by EnAcT at 7 PM, will be a great opportunity to get together and keep 'Berg moving toward a future filled with shades of green.

FROM **HARASSMENT** PAGE 1

were made responsible for their own comfort and safety on campus, while perpetrators were allowed to continue with their normal lives on campus, even if it meant they continued to harass other students."

When the statistics from the National Sexual Violence Research Center say that one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college, it is disconcerting that students aren't more aware of how cases of sexual harassment or assault are handled by their own administration.

According to an interview from last semester with Lee Kolbe, the Director of Title IX initiatives, sexual harassment is difficult to define, and pursue. If an incident is "persistent or pervasive" it can be pushed for further investigation and possibly a trial, said Kolbe. However, "a one-off incident, if it's not severe, would not rise to the level of harassment under Title IX."

Muhlenberg's website features a Sexual Misconduct Form where incidents can be reported online. It also urges students that, in an emergency, they should not complete an online report but rather immediately contact Campus Safety, the Dean of Students or the Director of Title IX.

According to the Policy Statement on Discriminatory Harassment, "the College expressly prohibits any form of unlawful harassment of its employees or students" and that "sexual and other forms of discriminatory harassment are unacceptable conduct and will not be tolerated by the College."

While there is a formal process, the issue is that it is not well understood or nuanced enough. While the official policy says any conduct that is deemed harassment will not be tolerated, Kolbe says not severe, one-off incidents — whether or not they fit the definition of harassment — are not labeled harassment and, thus, formal action cannot be taken. This gray area is the issue.

Without a universal system for understanding what to do in these situations and how to address a person who, given the benefit of the doubt, doesn't understand what they're doing wrong, real action is difficult to take. Campuses are where these conversations should be happening, while soon-to-be-adults are learning how to behave in society.

Sexual harassment, as unfortunately common as it is, is a topic that is difficult for many people to discuss. It makes people uncomfortable, but remaining ignorant or looking at the issue through rose-colored glasses will not bring about change.

Now, a bill in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives looks to amend the Uniform Crime Reporting Act by requiring colleges to not only educate the community about the risks of sexual assault but also to submit annual reports on sexual assault on campus. If passed, the act could transform crime statistics for colleges, which currently do not have to include sexual harassment or assault as part of their reporting, which could significantly impact how they are perceived by prospective students.

For current students, it may offer peace of mind that their voices are heard.

When asked whether or not they would feel comfortable reporting a sexual harassment or assault incident to the college's administration, there were mixed responses. Some said yes, others said it depends on the circumstances, others, like Kalet-Schwartz and Niemasz said no outright.

Pellechio agreed with the two women. "Personally, I would not feel comfortable because I am unsure of how well the case would be handled. If the school were to instill confidence in me that they can effectively manage a case of sexual harassment, I may be more inclined to report it."

Concern over how these incidents are handled is warranted. A student, who asked that their name not be used, expressed concerns that arose during a study abroad pre-departure meeting. According to the student, when covering issues of safety abroad, the topic of sexual harassment and/or rape came up and the response from those running the meeting was essentially to not report because it would inconvenience their travelling or education abroad. It left the student unable to trust the department as well as unsure of who to contact if something were to happen.

The Office of Global Education and Study Abroad could not be reached for a comment before publication.

When asked how they would define sexual harassment, all of the students polled unanimously agreed that it involved consent, or lack thereof. But consent is not always required for conversations and interactions, and the divergence into the gray area covered above is the problem.

Should the College save us from ourselves?

By Gregory Kantor
Editor-in-Chief

September, 1995: "Gangsta's Paradise" sits atop the Billboard charts, Sony's PlayStation is released and the O.J. Simpson trial is plastered on television sets across the country.

At Muhlenberg, plans for a smoke-free campus were finalized to mixed reactions.

"Muhlenberg is my home for four years and I don't want to feel like I am a guest who can't do as they please,"a student told The Weekly in '95. Others were supportive but expressed similar admissions-related concerns and potential impacts on alumni donations in the future.

The smoke-free campus movement is hardly a new phenomenon — it has followed in step with decades of policy and public opinion changes about smoking that are generally traced to the landmark 1964 report of the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health. In 2003, Ozark Technical College in Missouri became the first institution of higher education to implement a smoke-free campus policy (For the record, Muhlenberg's intentions to become smoke-free trace as far back as its 1993 five-year strategic plan.)

The push for a smoke-free Muhlenberg soon dissipated, and although the College has revised its smoking policy several times since, smoke-free efforts had not reemerged publicly until last month, when the Communications department ran a story about a research and policy proposal (full disclosure: it was my research).

With senior College officials poised to change an influential policy, now is the perfect opportunity to analyze the role of our current health and safety policies. Ultimately, the central question boils down to: what is the responsibility of a college to use policies to protect its students?

"I would start with this premise: when a government — or in this case, a college — regulates a freedom, the onus is on that institution to describe a compelling interest to enact that regulation, be it safety, liability or otherwise," says Chris Borick, Professor of Political Science.

Often, our desires to exercise freedoms come in conflict with the government's fundamental role in protecting our health, or, as the U.S. Constitution explains, to "promote the general welfare."

This conflict is demonstrated perfectly at colleges, where the range of compelling interests — a legal standard used to determine whether a government has the authority to regulate or restrict an individual's rights — is less broad because the population is more homogenous and the administration has a relatively unquestioned license to govern. Borick believes that colleges frequently have an easier path to demonstrating compelling interests because of liability concerns; that said, he cautions against the overuse of liability as an explanation for regulation.

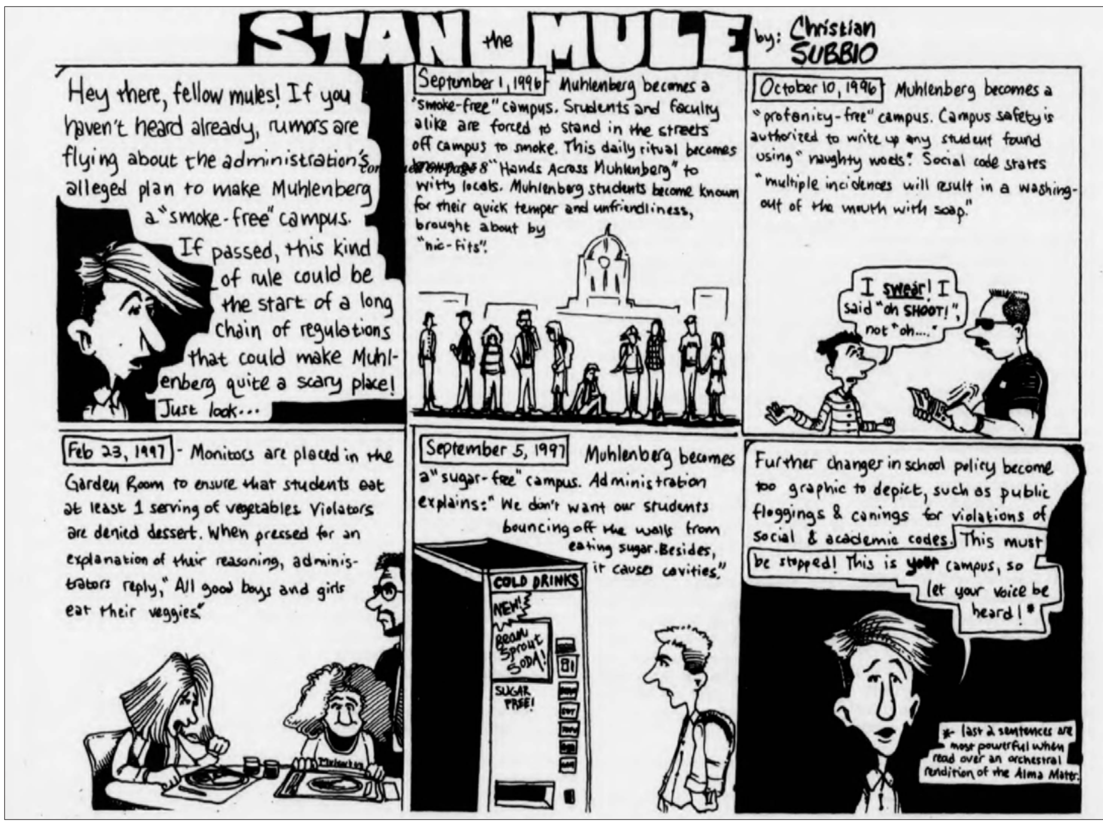

STAN the MULE by: Christian SUBBIO
Hey there, fellow mules! If you haven't heard already, rumors are flying about the administration's alleged plan to make Muhlenberg a "smoke-free" campus. If passed, this kind of rule could be the start of a long chain of regulations that could make Muhlenberg quite a scary place! Just look...
September 1, 1996 Muhlenberg becomes a "smoke-free" campus. Students and faculty alike are forced to stand in the streets off campus to smoke. This daily ritual becomes known as "Hands Across Muhlenberg" to witty locals. Muhlenberg students become known for their quick temper and unfriendliness, brought about by "nic-fits".
October 10, 1996 Muhlenberg becomes a "profanity-free" campus. Campus safety is authorized to write up any student found using "naughty words." Social code states "multiple incidences will result in a washing-out of the mouth with soap."
I swear! I said "oh SHOOT!", not "oh...."
Feb 23, 1997 - Monitors are placed in the Garden Room to ensure that students eat at least 1 serving of vegetables Violators are denied dessert. When pressed for an explanation of their reasoning, administrators reply, "All good boys and girls eat their veggies."
September 5, 1997 Muhlenberg becomes a "sugar-free" campus. Administration explains: "We don't want our students bouncing off the walls from eating sugar. Besides, it causes cavities."
COLD DRINKS
NEW!
Bean Sprout SODA!
SUGAR FREE!
Further changes in school policy become too graphic to depict, such as public floggings & canings for violations of social & academic codes. This must be stopped! This is your campus, so let your voice be heard! *
* last 2 sentences are most powerful when read over an orchestral rendition of the Alma Mater.

Photo Courtesy of The Weekly Archives

A cartoon from September of 1995 expressed some concerns regarding over-regulation of student health and safety.

"The college should be very transparent about how they draw conclusions on a new regulation, especially if it results in a great loss to students or others on campus," says Borick. "It's important to provide evidence in the explanation of why that loss is necessary."

At Muhlenberg, 44 policies govern student behavior, many of which address health or safety in some meaningful way, ranging from alcohol consumption and drug use to weapons and smoking. It is safe to say, however, that most students have not read all — or perhaps, any — of them.

Some of the policies actually affect students even before they arrive on campus for their freshman year, such as the immunization policy requiring nine vaccinations (or a documented exemption for religious or medical reasons). But Brynnmarie Dorsey, Executive Director of Student Health Services, isn't sure that expanding that requirement to include the influenza vaccine is appropriate.

Flu vaccines are generally about 40 to 50 percent effective, although this year's estimates are closer to 35 percent. This differs greatly from the required vaccines, which almost always result in immunity. The lower effectiveness for flu shots leads Dorsey to believe that requiring them by College policy would go too far in restricting personal freedoms — a stance that reflects Borick's emphasis on evidence-guided policymaking.

"Of course, I would love if we had 100 percent compliance," says Dorsey. "I think that the College's responsibility is to provide resources for students to reach their optimal level of well-being, be it physical, mental or spiritual, while also pursuing their academic interests."

Additionally, many of these

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This Week in Muhlenberg College History:

The John Peter Gabriel House

By Karl Schultz
Senior Staff Writer

"This Week in Muhlenberg College History" will bring to light past events, individuals, and forgotten aspects of Muhlenberg history that have been buried within the College's 170 years of existence.

Above: Eleanor Roosevelt and President Tyson pose on the steps of the Presidents House. Left: the House itself.

Though many of us have never entered the building nor even know where it is, we have all heard of the Wescoe School. The building, however, has housed far more than the adult learning school in its long history. Constructed in 1905, the John Peter Gabriel House, formerly the President's House, is one of the oldest buildings on campus and has overlooked the College's front lawn for more than 110 years. Throughout this time, the College has undergone a plethora of changes, and the Gabriel House is no different. From the residence of the president to its now uncertain future as the Wescoe School, the Gabriel House's history is as fascinating as the people that have graced its halls.

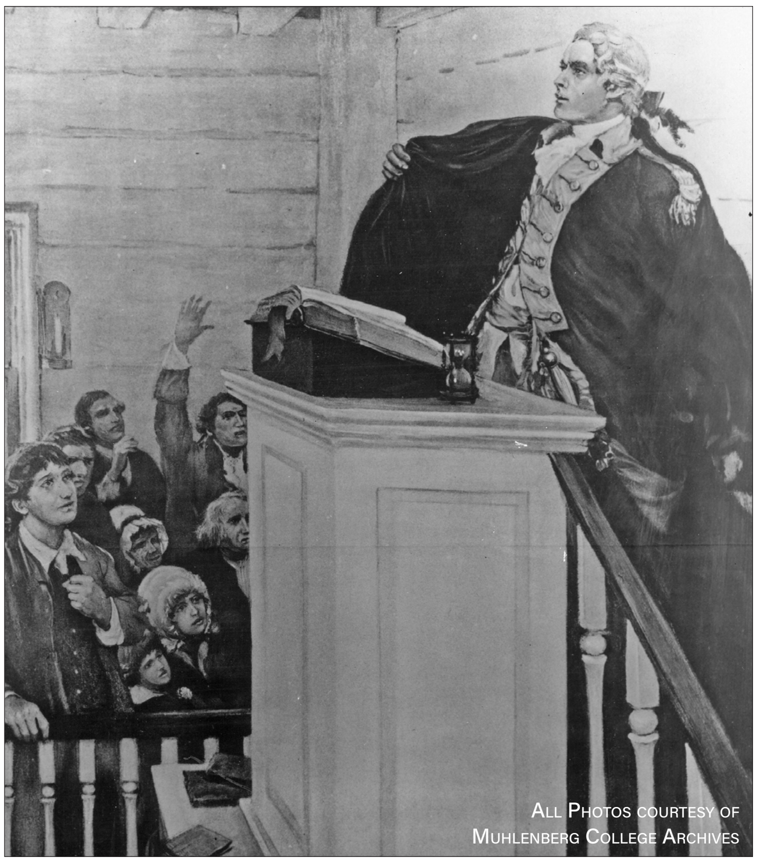
Already the subject of a previous History article, President Haas was the biggest catalyst of change the College had ever seen. Not only was he the longest serving president, but he oversaw a massive expansion of the College's new Allentown campus in his more than 30 year tenure. One such expansion was a home for himself, placed nicely in front of the the Administration Building, now Ettinger. In 1904, the only buildings on campus were the Ettinger, Berks Hall (now East), and the Power House (now the Plant Operations Building). The decision was made to keep the College's esteemed president a little closer to his pupils, so they broke ground in mid-1904 to complete his housing as quickly as possible.

OFFICE
OF
ADMISSIONS

Though no definitive evidence is present, rumor has it that the President's House was actually supposed to be south of Chew Street, not in its present location. According to the President's Report of 1946, the original intent was to place the building on the opposite side of Chew, at the present site of Trexler Library, but doesn't elaborate further than that. Though it is unclear how this simple blunder went unnoticed during its construction, if it was true, it would be yet another piece in the fascinating history of the Gabriel House.

For most of its life, the President's House remained just that: a home for the president to live in. Though its modern counterpart is located on Leh Street, the intimate nature of such a small campus facilitated its leader to remain close. Though the home could be described as simple, its guests were often far from it: the most notable guest to walk through its doors was Eleanor Roosevelt, the 31st First Lady of the United States. Roosevelt visited campus on May 26, 1942 to commemorate the bicentennial of the Muhlenberg family's landing in Pennsylvania, and spent the first part of her day with President Levering Tyson and his wife. After some pleasantries and a nice meal, she spoke at the celebration on the role of women in politics and received an honorary degree from the College.

Though not always home to such esteemed guests, the Gabriel House remained the home of the presidential family until 1964. In June of 1963, the Board of Trustees made order to purchase a house on 2333 Liberty Street, across from the Gymnasium, and "the English-style stone and stucco house" on 339 Leh St. After a few renovations and improvements, Dr. Erling Jensen, the College's 7th president, was ready to move in at the end of the Spring Semester of '64. The vacancy at the President's House was filled by Thad Marsh, Dean of the College; the name of the building appropriately changed from "President's House" to "Dean of the College House."



General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, the namesake of the Gabriel House.

Finding different uses after the Dean moved out in 1967, the House bore the name "Education and Mathematics Building" and "Admissions House" before its contemporary title of "John Peter Gabriel House" came to be. It would, however, be 20 more years of name changes and additions before the name "Wescoe" was attached to the building. In the meantime, it became an office building for a myriad of different departments and for a short period even held some classrooms.

In 1990, it became the "Center for Adult Education," but is wasn't until 1999 that the "Wescoe School of Professional Studies" was officially housed in the Gabriel House. The Wescoe School, undoubtedly to be the subject of a future article, was yet another step 'towards a greater Muhlenberg.'

Though the main focus of these articles are to dwell on Muhlenberg's forgotten past, in this case, we must now also look to the near future. With the history behind the Gabriel House being one integral to the growth of this campus, its planned destruction as part of the new proposed Master Plan should come as quite a surprise. Every Muhlenberg administration has strived to pave a path towards 'a greater Muhlenberg,' and campus renovations often came along that path. However, very rarely does that path pave over its history as it progresses: the only time that comes to mind that a campus building has been leveled to make way for something new is the demolition of the Bernheim House.

It is the opinion of this history writer that the future of this College should not see the destruction of its past to make room for its future, but instead a humble cohabitation that highlights both this College's historic past and its groundbreaking developments.

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from **Health & Safety** page 3

policies that govern health and safety are in place not only because of their impact on students, faculty and staff, but also for the surrounding neighborhood; certainly, these impacts are among Muhlenberg's many compelling interests. For instance, the disruptive conduct policy keeps students from being too noisy and vandalizing or littering on a neighbor's property.

"For me, it comes down to the community," says Jane Schubert, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Conduct. But Schubert also admits that too often, policies are created or adjusted following an incident, and this presents particular challenges with respect to health and safety.

Take, for example, the case of Lehigh University, whose Interfraternity Council (IFC) announced in December that hard alcohol would be banned indefinitely at all IFC-sponsored events. The decision followed concerns of "extreme drinking" that led to nearly 150 alcohol-related citations in the first few weeks of the Fall 2017 semester. It would be foolish, however, to assume that this policy change will solve the larger problem — especially because non-IFC affiliated events are unaffected by the new policy.

With respect to alcohol, Muhlenberg is a 'wet' campus, meaning that students who are legally allowed to drink are permitted to do so, as long as they are not in the presence of minors and abide by the other components of the alcohol policy.

An essential part of the College's Social Code, Schubert notes, is the Community of Responsibility statement. "It really guides how we need to exist on campus — all of these health and safety policies fall under this statement," she says. Among other things, the statement requires students to "adhere to the highest standards of good citizenship" and "conduct themselves with ... due regard for the rights and property of others."

"Above all, what we want is clarity for our students. These policies are critically important because they shape and regulate our community as well as our neighbors," says Schubert. "They provide context for action and thoughtful decision-making."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

/ARTS & CULTURE

I discovered that joy is not the negation of pain, but rather acknowledging the presence of pain and feeling happiness in spite of it.
-Lupita Nyong'o

A night of wonders

Cultures collide at the Lunar New Year festival

Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg College

Ha Ahn Truong '19 and dining services employee Hannah strike a pose next to the iconic Chinese dragon costume during the Lunar New Year festivities.

By Ji Ku
Contributing Writer

This past week was certainly an extraordinary one in Seegers Union. With decorations full of vibrant red papers, paper lanterns and balloons, Muhlenberg College was ready to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

This holiday is celebrated on the first day of the first month in the lunar calendar and goes on until the lantern festival, which is on the fifteenth day. However, this celebration is not limited to just Chinese cultures. Countries like Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam celebrate this holiday with some slight traditional differences.

The origin of the Chinese New Year is derived from a legendary monster called Nian. According to the Chinese folk story, Nian stayed in a forest away from a village. However, whenever the new moon devoured the daylight, the monster would appear in front of the villagers and scare them. For many years, people dreaded the time of the new moon as it got closer and closer. But one day, a wise old man advised the villagers to make loud noises, bring out fires and wear the color red because that was what Nian was afraid of. So, when Nian came out during the next new moon, people hit their drums, ignited all the fireworks and wore red from head to toe. The spectacle drove Nian away from the village, never to return. From this day forward, villagers celebrated the new moon. This celebration soon turned into the fifteen days of the Chinese New Year.

Although the festival here did not last for fifteen days, Muhlenberg had their own version of this celebration. First, the main hall and the windows of Seegers Union were filled with decorations like Chinese letters, imitation balloon fireworks, paper lanterns and big balloon letters spelling out Lunar New Year. The hall had an almost warm atmosphere, giving students a welcoming environment to experience the Chinese culture.

On Tuesday, students were given an opportunity to participate in dumpling making. At the kitchen, many Chinese international students took part, but there were some non-Chinese students making the dumplings as well. Yes, there were struggles because some students never made dumplings before, but with some help, were able to produce around 3,500 to 3,700 dumplings in one hour. That far exceeded the quota that any of the previous years set.

Making dumplings was especially memorable to me. This event made me remember the times I made dumplings with my family. Almost every Lunar New Year (or even western New Year), my grandmother would always make the stuffing in a large bowl. After she finished, my whole family would sit in the circle and make dumplings (even experiment with different shapes). This year, I was unable to go back and celebrate with my family members, but, by doing this activity, I was able to celebrate Lunar New Year with my friends and make new memories.

Thursday's dinner courses were astounding. The food was not limited to just steamed dumplings. There were fried dumplings, egg drop soup, sweet and sour tofu, spring rolls and even desserts such as green tea frozen yogurt and mandarin oranges. The dining hall was packed with long lines of students. With Chinese music in the background, students waited at least ten minutes for dumplings. The result of the wait was absolutely marvelous. The steamed dumplings had two variations: vegetable and chicken-shrimp stuffed dumplings, and both were just too delicious (although I prefer the chicken-

see **Lunar New Year** page 7

Reaching for the light:

Spotlighting Six Meters

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

It's not too often that we just appreciate watching people move. Their movement is mitigated, subordinated, by something else that we're supposed to find, layered over or under or within the body – a story, perhaps, or a message. In theatre, we're distracted from the actors' perambulations by their words, and in dance by added music or the desire to make each pose or plie a part of something larger. It's not too often that we just appreciate the miracle of our own muscles and skin or recognize the magic of hearing feet battle with the ground beneath them.

In the Brown Studio on Feb. 17, that's just what the audience has gathered here to do. Sitting on rows of chairs and couches, with nothing to come between them and the performers, they wait for the performance to begin – except it already has. Members of the movement improv group Six Meters writhe across the dance floor, some sitting on top of others, some forming groups that make earthquakes when they move. One, Cameron Silliman '18, launches herself towards my friends and I, grasping the side of the couch we sit on and muttering something I can't understand over the planned cacophony as my friend laughs and I shout in surprise.

"Six Meters to me gives the ability to use your body and voice in creative ways that go outside of the conventional ideas of movement and singing," Silliman later said. "It allows total freedom which brings out new ways of expression through your body."

Soon, the opening warm-up comes to a close, and the group's 10 members rise. Director and college dance lecturer Susan Creitz introduces the group, stating that it's "only for the brave and the crazy and people who have to move." Creitz, an artist herself who is trained in dance improvisation and has established dance companies in New York, formed Six Meters in 1998 and pulls its members from her Movement Workshop for Dancers and Actors class.

"This course supplies a basic 'vocabulary' which guides us and helps us understand what we are doing," Creitz said. "Then during auditions, I can assess who I think will work well in a group and individually. A member must be courageous, strong on many levels, inquisitive, generous to fellow members and the audience, sensitive, smart and, of course, able to create worlds on the spot."

Entry into this ensemble is no small feat, a fact that becomes clearly necessary as one views their performance entitled "Everything & the Kitchen Sink." During a segment called "Pretty/Silly Songs," group members fly around the stage to a beat set by Creitz until a sudden crash signals them to stop. They then begin to sing whilst holding their last position, some choosing to scream out popular hits while others merely describe what they're doing to mysterious tunes. As laughter erupts around me at this odd twist on something akin to musical chairs, something inside me – perhaps that "total freedom" Silliman mentions – longs to join them.

"[This group is] only for the brave and the crazy and people who have to move."

"Truths emerge that seem to enliven and help people. We want to share this with the public," Creitz said. "... In movement improv we follow the body as much as we can ... I think that all forms of improv support each other and are basically the same. We use the miracle of the body with its cellular memory to draw on, giving us an infinite amount of experience and material."

These questions and leads manifest in the various sections of the group's performance, all of which explore the body's capacity to create from little to no extraneous input. The final piece in Part One of the show, entitled "Objects as Sound," begins when

see **Six Meters** page 7

“What I learned in performance is...”

By Lauren Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

A somber, light, yet powerful voice soars and conquers the audience. It feeds on the silence, reinforcing the untamable precision and power that is the dramatic coloratura soprano.

Last Saturday evening, Bailey Fulginiti ‘18 performed her senior recital in Egner Chapel at 6 p.m. The recital presented a variety of genres ranging from opera to a few jazz standards. To sum up the production: it was remarkable. Fulginiti’s voice filled the chapel with a wide, embodying vibrato.

Before I continue, though, what exactly is a senior recital? It is the culminating undergraduate experience seminar that music majors with a performance concentration must complete during either the Fall or Spring semester of their senior year. It is a recital made from repertoire chosen by the students, in tandem with their performance instructors, to represent what they learned and how they grew as a performer in the music department. This includes program notes and written translations (in case the pieces are in other languages), as well as accompanists if needed.

Fulginiti’s recital was set in the Chapel, which only served to shape and engage her voice further within the audience’s minds and ears. From where she stood to far behind the last seats, you could hear her voice clear as crystal — it was truly a magnificent performance.

One of my personal favorites was “Je dis que rien ne m’epouvante.”

The song is an aria sung by a female character known as Michaela from Bizet’s Romantic opera Carmen, this piece is a fearful pronouncement of her love for an unfaithful lover, and her bravery to do all she can to see him come home. Fulginiti later revealed that this piece was particularly significant for her:

“Carmen was the very first opera I saw at the Met [Metropolitan Opera in New York City], and I remember seeing that aria and just crying ... My freshman year I came and shared my love for this piece with my instructor [Christa Warda] who said ‘you can do that,’ and I was able to sing one of my favorite pieces.”

Earlier I mentioned that Fulginiti is a dramatic coloratura soprano. This title refers to both a certain voice type as well as the characteristics that may be associated with the assigned tone quality, which is the range of pitch and dynamics a voice has. For instance, characters such as Mozart’s Queen of the Night and Bizet’s Michaela require dramatic coloratura sopranos to play them.

To clarify, the dramatic coloratura soprano has a very wide range pitch wise, but can maintain a heavy consistency throughout.

I was curious about the incorporation of jazz in Fulginiti’s recital and asked her to explain further about their relationship, or at least what it may mean to her:

“I definitely think they are similar. I mean, if you have solid technique you can basically sing ... whatever you want to do, because the technique is there ... I think Jazz and classical music are very similar in the ornamentations ... and artistic freedoms [they share].”

She continues, elaborating on the personal aspect as well:

“Outside of Muhlenberg, as I sing with jazz trios ... I wanted to add something that really accurately represented my time here. It’s been equally split doing classical voice and jazz.”

Fulginiti plans on continuing her vocal career. Whether she pursues it further academically or not is still in question, but music itself will always remain in her life.

“When you’re a freshman, you are a baby-baby singer, and there will be a lot that happens from then until your senior recital ... and you will grow in that experience. It’s important to stick with it. Don’t be discouraged by seeing other talent because there are so many voices on this campus. Musical theatre, opera, jazz, pop, country — they are all represented here, and your voice will find its place too.”

Black Panther’s impact beyond the big screen

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

Black Panther, released less than a week ago on Feb. 16, focuses on the genesis of T’Challa as both the Black Panther and the new king of the fictional country of Wakanda following the death of his father T’Chaka, which the Marvel audience observed in the Avengers movie *Captain America: Civil War*. The film features a star-studded cast including Chadwick Boseman as T’Challa, Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong’o and Martin Freeman, just to name a few.

The movie follows T’Challa after the events of *Civil War* as he returns to the isolated but unconquerable, technologically advanced African nation that he calls home. According to Rotten Tomatoes, when “an old enemy reappears on the radar, T’Challa’s mettle as King and Black Panther is tested when he is drawn into a conflict that puts the entire fate of Wakanda and the world at risk.”

The eighteenth installment of superhero movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, *Black Panther* received immense critical acclaim even before it hit box offices. Many have noted it as the best Marvel film to date, others claiming it to be the most important movie of the year. One thing is for sure: few people have been in opposition to the quality of and content in the movie. For most, this is the movie to see, regardless of race, gender, or age.

In the box office, *Black Panther* overwhelmed all expectations blowing the predicted opening weekend box office earning out of the water. The film brought in an estimated $242 million over the four-day holiday weekend, the fifth biggest movie opening of all time.

Additionally, *Black Panther* shattered the record for a February opening that had been held by *Deadpool* since 2016. For Marvel Studios, it is the second biggest opening, placing behind only *The Avengers.*

It also surpassed the record for the largest opening for an African-American director, topping F. Gary Gray’s *The Fate of the Furious* by over $100 million. For those that said that minorities, especially a black cast, can’t sell as well as a white cast, those involved in *Black Panther* are proving them all wrong. There’s no question that the film has been financially successful, but *Black Panther* will go down in the history books for its impact off the big screen.

The list of things director Ryan Coogler attempts to tackle in the film is endless. Identity politics, a social critique of white America and issues of power and privilege are just a few of the complex issues that *Black Panther* brings to the film screen and, in turn, forces people to discuss. Coogler’s interpretation of a typical superhero flick addresses fault lines in society while still incorporating action movie fundamentals like fight scenes and car chases.

Black Panther features subtle — and not so subtle — digs at historical examples of racism and oppression. Wakanda is an unconquerable nation, and Boseman incorporated that idea into his performance. He used his acting training to create a voice from South African, Kenyan, Ethiopian and other African nationalities rooted in the Xhosa dialect. What was most significant about this accent was that Boseman actually crafted it himself.

“For me, Wakanda has never been conquered,” said Boseman to the Los Angeles Times. “At one time they were thinking he’d have a European accent or an American accent. I said that would not be fine because if we did that, that would be saying that they had been colonized.”

In an interview with CNET, Boseman said, “It’s supposed to be the most technologically advanced nation on the planet. If it’s supposed to not have been conquered — which means that advancement has happened without colonialism tainting it, poisoning the well of it, without stopping it or disrupting it — then there’s no way he would speak with a European accent.”

Examining the negatives of colonialism was also a theme. Without giving away too much, T’Challa’s cousin, played by Jordan, is essentially stripped of his Wakandan identity unknowingly. Jordan’s character Erik is quick to point out dualistic viewpoints of colonization — for example, Europeans can take an artifact in a siege, but if Erik were to take back what belonged to his people, it would be called theft.

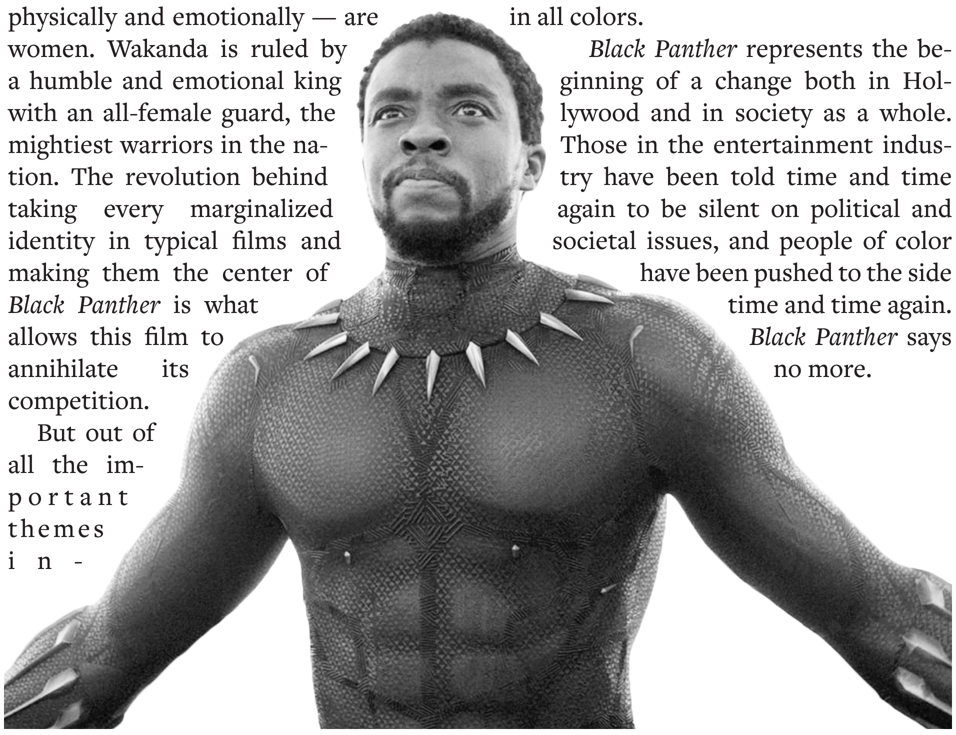
At one point towards the end of the film, Erik utters these words, but you know Jordan is the one saying them: “Bury me in the ocean where my ancestors jumped from ships because they knew death was better than bondage.”

The movie bears witness to a host of other significant social issues. *Black Panther* portrays the normalcy of men having and processing emotions. It shows that women, especially black women, can be as powerful, if not more powerful, than men. In fact, aside from Boseman, the strongest characters in the film — mentally, physically and emotionally — are women. Wakanda is ruled by a humble and emotional king with an all-female guard, the mightiest warriors in the nation. The revolution behind taking every marginalized identity in typical films and making them the center of *Black Panther* is what allows this film to annihilate its competition.

But out of all the important themes included in the film, none is more important than the portrayal of a black superhero. Ask the countless students who were able to see the movie thanks to fundraisers across the country. Students were recorded dancing in their classrooms when they received the news. Some children cried. For the first time, they had the chance to see a superhero on the big screen that looks like them. People say that they are colorblind, but in reality, these children have seen a lack of representation of themselves for years and *Black Panther* brought an end to that problem.

As one unidentified student told NPR, “It’s different from other movies because it’s like, you can fight for what you believe in, but you can do it in different ways.” For black children, T’Challa and Boseman himself have become role models, showing them that they too can show emotion, fight for what’s right and rule the world — whether they grow up as a prince in an affluent nation or a regular kid on the Oakland streets. Most importantly, the film shows all children, regardless of race, gender or religion, that superheroes come in all colors.

Black Panther represents the beginning of a change both in Hollywood and in society as a whole. Those in the entertainment industry have been told time and time again to be silent on political and societal issues, and people of color have been pushed to the side time and time again. *Black Panther* says no more.



FROM **SIX METERS** PAGE 5

Winfield Maben '18 picks up an umbrella from a disembodied kitchen sink sitting on stage left, stuffed full of miscellaneous novelties. He opens the umbrella with a flourish, prompting an awed gasp from the audience as he twirls and taps its ends on the ground. Soon, though, the umbrella has had enough – it breaks, fabric detaching and leaving only a metal frame behind. Unfazed, Maben begins toying with the umbrella's bones, clacking them against the floor and exploring their newfound oddness.

As the audience claps, he saunters offstage, replaced by Silliman. She picks up a wooden baton and taps it around her, as though she's using it to test the safety of her future steps. Eventually, she drops the baton and seems to turn on it, tentatively approaching it, picking it up, and recoiling from the snapping sound it makes as it reunites with the floor. Each performer makes their chosen sounds visual, reacting to the noises they create. Creitz recalls the process she and the group as a whole went through to arrive at these unique ideas.

"The rehearsal process for Saturday's show actually began at the auditions where the soon-to-be members sensed and viewed what were their common strengths," said Creitz. "Then during our class times together on Wednesday and Friday we worked on many premises, concepts [and] specific exercises that helped us to be clear in what we were doing. A plethora of ideas is common in an improv group but presenting them in a cohesive manner is the challenge ... As you see, this type of improv takes just as much mental preparation as ... physical exertion."

This physical aspect comes to a head with Part Two of the show, "Slides." In this section, an old-fashioned projector presents slides created by the group's members. Each is made of cut and arranged color transparencies, creating a kind of frozen kaleidoscope on the Brown Studio's walls. One or more group members volunteer to interpret or interact with these images, some choosing to improvise dances while others devise stories.

Shantell Cruz '19 becomes the double of her shadow, and though the two move in tandem, they seem to be distinctly separate entities. Seamus Good '18, faced with a hypnotizing spiral that spins and moves as Creitz turns the projector, chases his slide across the room, trying and failing to catch up with it. Michael Masse '18 runs towards what seems like a door or portal in his image, frantically attempting to make it to the other side as Creitz cheers, "You can do it, laddie! You've done it before!" Raucous laughter erupts.

Perhaps the final moment in the show exemplifies the spirit of Six Meters best. With the projector turned towards the ceiling, the final blocks of color are out of everyone's reach. The members quickly huddle together, holding each other and circling underneath the false skylights. Masse emerges from the middle, and the rest hoist him towards the image, his face illuminated as he gets ever closer. He reaches out – and the studio goes black.

This is that "truth" that Creitz so eagerly wants to share: the truth of working together to come as close as we can to something just out of our reach. Though we might not ever get there, though we might stay forever reaching up to a projected light, held by the weight of those who support us, the least we can do is try.

MIRIAM ODERBERG MOSS / THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Above: Emma Peretz '18 and Michael Masse '18 create stories through movement as they explore pre-prepared slides created by other members of Six Meters.

FROM **LUNAR NEW YEAR** PAGE 5

shrimp stuffed dumplings). I was blown away by the dedication of the school in giving thoughtful food considerations to celebrate Chinese New Year. Also, thanks to the Asian Students Association volunteers (ASA), the events as a whole were a success.

I am not the only one who enjoyed such spectacles. Molly Nochimson '21 also appreciated the festivities surrounding the Lunar New Year.

"I really enjoyed the Lunar New Year events! During last week's Chinese class, we had the chance to go into one of our kitchens and make all different kinds of dumplings," Nochimson said. "I wish my friends and family a happy and healthy Lunar New Year."

Jason Shang '21, an international student from China, also had memorable moments during the celebration.

"I volunteered to make dumplings on Tuesday, and it was a really good experience," said Shang. "The dumplings were so good, and I saw lots of students go for them as well. There was also dragon dance in the dining hall ... It was really good for a freshman Chinese student. I feel like I'm at home. Maybe next time the campus can allow students to make flour on our own for the dumplings."

It is truly exciting to see that international students can truly feel that they belong in the school and are allowed to share their culture, even far away from home.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

Left: Yu Fei Li '20 serves traditional Chinese gunpowder green tea to guests at the Tea Around the Globe event on Friday. Right: Bailey Roberts '19 and Ha Anh Truong '19 light sparklers outside of Seegers Union to ring in the new year.

It is truly exciting to see that international students can truly feel that they belong in the school and are allowed to share their culture even far away from home.

Perhaps coincidentally, on Friday, Seegers Union held an international tea tasting event, where students and faculty were able to sip teas and munch on snacks associated with the teas. This wrapped up the Lunar New Year, where at the end of the day, students were able to drink not just Chinese teas, but other teas from around the globe.

Overall, the college's attempt to integrate Chinese tradition into the school atmosphere was successful, in which students of a diverse range of backgrounds can appreciate and understand Chinese culture. In the future, I hope to see where there will be activities dedicated to not just Chinese, but Christian, Jewish, and other backgrounds as well. I wish to see where there will be more engagement in other less known countries.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Shooting the shooting

Analyzing teen's use of social media in a mass shooting

Among the Valentine's Snapchats of smiling couples, Insta-worthy chocolates and roses was an unfiltered video, with the caption: "Our f*cking school is being shot up."

The snap came from a student in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. where, in less than ten minutes, a 19-year-old former student using an AR-15 rifle took the lives of 17 people; 14 of the victims were students 18 and under.

The snapchatter filmed others crouched to the ground in his classroom, hiding beneath their desks. At the first gunshot, his arm jumped, shaking the camera, as he cursed and a horror-movie wail filled the halls atop rapid gunfire. Another snap, in a compilation by the New York Times, contained students huddled in the corner of an orange-walled classroom being blinded by SWAT teams flashlights, the officers demanding "put your phones away!"

From the generation that grew up with social media — where documenting and sharing moments of their lives was the norm — came unintentional-behind-the-scenes glimpses the news cameras wish they could call their own. Even in a life or death situation, those attending Marjory Stoneman Douglas felt the inclination to document what was happening online.

A lot of students were on their phones, reported an unnamed student interviewed by the New York Times on the event. Some learned what was going on from the headlines they read on their devices, while other students who've lived through shootings themselves talked trapped and scared students through it.

The use of social media to bear witness to and document their experiences allowed the teenagers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas to not only provide real-time updates of what they were encountering to friends and family, but also gave them some control over what was happening. By recording those moments, disturbing as they may be, they shared a narrative of disturbing reality that could not be censored or ignored. Even through a phone screen, Americans were confronted with the realization that they can no longer be numb to recurring mass shootings.

After Snapchat came Twitter.

The students responded to people like President Donald Trump and conservative commentator Tomi Lahren, who refused to acknowledge that this was a gun control problem. They vocalized their outrage at becoming another statistic in this mass shooting epidemic, asking for gun control instead of condolences and prayers.

"My friends and teachers were shot. Multiple of my fellow classmates are dead. Do something instead of sending prayers. Prayers won't fix this. But Gun control will prevent it from happening again." tweeted 16-year-old Sarah Chadwick, in response to President Trump's twitter statement. Before Chadwick deleted the tweet, which contained profanity, she had received twice as many likes as Trump's tweet of sympathy, reported Florida Today.

These students are responding in the only way they — and even our president — know how to: with social media. These teenagers inherited a systemic issue of failing to act when these tragedies occur. So this time, they are refusing to accept the empty condolences and prayers.

When handed a microphone, David Hogg, a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas held back anger as he said: "We are children. You guys are the adults. Work together, come over your politics and get something done."

From the Editorial Board of
The Muhlenberg Weekly

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Letters to the Editor

The following letters are in reference to the article "Deciding the debate: Center for Ethics speaker selction." The article covered the process the Center for Ethics took in choosing speakers for the Troubling Truth series as well as the involvement of Dana Students in influencing those decisions. Dr. Mello and Dr. Hashim comment on aspects of this process that the article misrepresented regarding the Dana program.

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To the Editor:

Next year I will become Director of the Center for Ethics, and I want to take this opportunity to correct some important inaccuracies and confusion that emerged in the February 15 issue of this paper about how the CFE operates, and what its relationship to the DANA Scholars Program is. CFE programming is a faculty and staff responsibility — the director reports to the Provost, and the CFE Advisory Board is made up of faculty from programs across the campus. The Director of the Center for Ethics coordinates the process for proposing and selecting themes, consults with the CFE Advisory Board in selecting among proposed themes, and in consultation with the Provost selects directors from the faculty and/or staff to shepherd the theme through the planning and implementation processes. At times program directors include the author of specific proposals, but on many occasions directors are not the original authors of the proposal. In short, it is normal for directors to modify, expand, and/or narrow initial proposals as they move toward implementing the program. ALL Students may weigh in with suggested themes and add input for program directors to consider, but the job of selecting the theme is NOT a DANA student responsibility, and frankly, not a student responsibility at all. The Center regularly solicits input from the DANA Scholars Program because of the long-standing relationship of the DANA Forum to the CFE program, but the DANA program does not, has not, and will not determine CFE programming, who the program directors are, or what the final version of the program looks like. The article published last week, in short, presents an incorrect understanding of the selection of CFE topics and programming. The engagement across the campus with many events from this year's program is a testament to the outstanding work Maura Finkelstein and Lora Taub have done in building and carrying out the Troubling Truth program. This year's program will conclude with a student-driven event on April 13 that will allow for integration of events and reflection on the program's theme.

Here is the text of the call for proposals that went out to all faculty and selected staff at the start of this semester:

> I'd like to invite you to offer suggestions for Center for Ethics themes for academic year 2018-2019. Program ideas should address the Center's Mission: "The Muhlenberg College Center for Ethics seeks to develop our capacities for ethical reflection, moral leadership, and responsible action by engaging community members in scholarly dialogue, intellectual analysis, and self-examination about contested ethical issues." Preference will be given to themes that can attract attention from across academic divisions; that provide opportunities for advancing the College's curricular goals around integrative learning and/or human difference and global engagement; that support the civic engagement mission of the College; or that foster connections between student and academic life (e.g. innovative connections with Residential Life, Multicultural Life, or the Center for Civic Engagement).

-Dr. Brian Mello

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To the Editor:

I want to follow up on Dr. Brian Mello's letter to the editor, which makes reference to the recent article published about the Center for Ethics (CFE) and its connection to the Dana Scholars program. I want to reiterate that the Dana Scholars program never had any institutionalized role in determining the CFE program. On a number of occasions, a Dana student proposed an idea that the CFE Director and Faculty Advisory Board supported. In the end, the CFE Annual Program Director and the CFE Director fine-tune and develop the final version of the program and its contents. Each year, I strongly urge Dana Juniors to attend the CFE planning meeting, so that they can weigh in on the discussions around next year's proposed theme. I also urge them to submit their own proposals that can be discussed at the planning meeting. They are urged to have a voice in the deliberations on choosing the next year's CFE theme since the theme will shape their Dana capstone experience - the Dana Forum. It is, however, not accurate to suggest that the Dana program shapes the CFE's annual program. Students having a voice in a planning meeting does not mean that they are deciding on the final version of the program. I sit on the CFE Faculty Advisory Board. I can advocate for or against a certain proposal, but I do not determine the final program either. The Dana program looks forward to continuing its relationship with the CFE.

-Dr. Mohsin Hashim

Penned by William Shakespeare's more talented descendent

I've got the most Olympic gold stars

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

Let me begin by saying that Pyeongchang is beautiful this time of year, the snow dances on every single flag in the world as they all compete to see which country is the best at some sports. I also must say that it is truly an honor to be given the opportunity to tear up the slopes with my snowboard on behalf of the United States of America. As you probably already know, I have already won a bunch of gold stars for my sweet flips on my board. Yes, even more than my best friend and closest confidant, the Flying Tomato aka Shaun White. Something everybody has been asking us is if this has affected our friendship in any way, of course it has. It's made us even better friends.

The thing you have to know about the Egg, aka Shaun White, is that his happiness is entirely derived from other people's success and he finds no joy in himself. But this isn't about my best friend Future Boy, aka Shaun White, this is about my experience so far competing at the Olympics. I wake up at 4:23 a.m. every single day, the reason so many of us Olympic athletes wake up so early is because the three-star motel we are forced to live in during the games is about 50 miles away from the coliseum, or 50 kilometers for any brits reading this. This means I don't arrive at the coliseum until 11 o'clock. I then spend about an hour trying to find a parking spot and usually end up saying "You Only Live Once" and park on the top of that ski mountain.

Once I get inside, I don't do a single thing or talk to a single person until I've had my morning coffee. If anyone tries to talk to me, I just point at my shirt that I wear every day which says "If my coffee mug is empty, then your mouth should be too" and then I explain where all the stains on the shirt came from in painstaking detail regardless of whether or not they want to know.

By 12:48 p.m. my coffee has been drunk, by me of course, and I am ready for the great games. The only problem being that snowboarding doesn't get to go until 8:17 p.m., meaning I have a lot of time to kill. I've been spending that time each day doing a number of things. One day me and my best friend in the whole wide world The Animal, aka Shaun White, spent those hours hiding under the ramp for skiing. While under there we used our breath to pretend we were smoking and we freaked out all the lame-o prudes. But then the next day Shaun White, my friend whom I love, brought actual cigarettes and I had to get my mom to come pick me up.

When the clock strikes 8:17 p.m., I slide down that big mountain while doing all sorts of spins and flips and karate moves that look so dope. Once I get to the bottom of the mountain some old guy throws me another gold star for snowboarding better than the other countries again, but I'm just interested in getting back inside to more of my sweet coffee. I then return to my three-star motel and I'm in bed by 9:00 to ensure I get a nice rest in before I start the process all over again the next day. Over all, the day to day life of a definitely real Olympic athlete is more about heart than anything else. If you want to know more or get any hot gossip on Shaun White, I'm still a little upset with him about the cigarette thing, then hit me up on Facebook.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

The Hawkeyes' humanity

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Growing up, I never felt a connection with the superheroes I saw on screen. Something about them put me off, removed me from really getting to know them. What did they have to do with me?

I got my answer one night a few years ago whilst scrolling through the internet. Somehow, I stumbled upon a series of comics about a superhero that tends to get tossed aside, both in our world and his own: Hawkeye. Intrigued by the spellbinding, minimalist art of David Aja and almost-too-lifelike humor of writer Matt Fraction, I fell down the rabbit hole of this 2014 series, consuming it as if it were a precious taste of an entirely new form of food.

And it was — I had never even imagined comics could be like this one, so grounded and open and laugh-out-loud funny. Just as there had been some unnamable quality that pushed me away from other superhero stories, something about this one pulled me further in. Hawkeye, also known as Clint Barton, is a perfect shot, an Avenger, and ... a complete and total mess. He drinks coffee straight from the pot, can't figure out how to plug in his own TV without help from Iron Man, and loses his pants in the middle of battle. He's fully aware of his position as the least "super" of the Avengers, and it's one of the biggest contributors to his cripplingly low sense of self-worth, second only to his childhood spent as the subject of abuse both from his parents and the foster care system.

In short, he's human. His skills are earned through practice, and his sense of right and wrong isn't bestowed upon him by some mystical mandate but is a deliberate choice to do good. He is the reader in this world of magic hammers and Spidey-senses, a reassuring reminder that we, too, can hold our own among the super.

Though Clint is close to my heart, this comic gave me another character who has since become my favorite of all time: Kate Bishop, the other (and, as she might say, better) Hawkeye. Kate is the daughter of an often-absent and sometimes-villainous New York publisher who, after being sexually assaulted, takes up self-defense and becomes an even more skilled archer than her namesake. She's lived through many different comic conceptions since her first appearance in 2005, namely as a member of the original Young Avengers and, in the Fraction/Aja run, as Clint's snarky partner-in-crime-fighting. Kate keeps Clint both alive and in line, eventually spreading her own wings on the West Coast in the third volume of the series, where she is drawn by the spectacular Annie Wu.

In 2016, this L.A. Kate got her rightful turn in the spotlight with her own series, Hawkeye: Kate Bishop, written by Kelly Thompson and drawn primarily by Leonardo Romero. Thompson carries Kate's candle with expertise, providing dedicated readers with plenty of Kate's classic cynical charm whilst refusing to complacently dwell on the character's surface. These comics mean so much to me — beyond my love of Kate as a character, the fact that the series is all about the adventures of a complicated, hilarious, human young woman represents to me a positive shift in the overall direction of comic writing and representation.

Since even before the Fraction/Aja run, comics featuring both Hawkeyes have been commonly acknowledged as some of the most forward-thinking and inclusive: Clint is Deaf and wears hearing aids, occasionally using American Sign Language to communicate, and most of the Young Avengers are LGBTQ+, with some also being people of color. This trend has continued into Thompson's run, which prominently features both interracial LGBTQ+ relationships and, in the latest issue, Clint's deafness.

Unfortunately, this series, along with many others featuring minority leads, has been canceled, and the upcoming Mar. 7 issue will be its last. Though this particular series' time might be coming to a close, I encourage you to dive into the world of the Hawkeyes — you just might find you've plunged into the most fun, intriguing, and dysfunctional ride of your life.

P.S. Please, support your favorite creators while you can. Like Clint and Kate, you don't have to have superpowers to make a difference.

The Florida Project snubbed for Best Picture

By MacKenzie Richards
Contributing Writer

The Academy Awards made history this season with *Get Out's* nomination, a movie committed to using tropes of the Academy's notoriously-hated genres, horror and comedy, to address race relations in America. In a world where streaming services are rapidly democratizing — or ruining, depending on who you ask — cinema, the film's nomination is proof that the Academy is trying to keep up with a culture most of its members are desperately out of touch with.

Unfortunately, the exclusion of *The Florida Project* from nearly every single category shows that they still have a bad habit of overlooking films that are on the cutting edge of cinema.

The Florida Project focuses on six-year-old Moonee's time living in the Magic Castle, a motel that is inhabited by the poorest of the poor and located right near Disney World. Throughout the film, Moonee makes mischief under the watch of the motel's owner, played by Willem Dafoe in a Best Supporting Actor-nominated role.

Director Sean Baker is most known for *Tangerine*, a groundbreaking iPhone-shot journey into the lives of two transgender sex workers that is much more than the sum of its supposed gimmicks. For his entire career, he has been making movies about destitute people that Americans would like to forget exist; whether they be immigrants, prostitutes, or the "white trash" denizens of the sun-bleached Magic Castle. *The Florida Project* is the ultimate antidote to poverty tourism in cinema, depicting its protagonists as complex people trying to navigate their tough lives while having fun doing so. Baker's films have a recurring theme of poverty forcing people to act in bizarre and morally questionable ways, and what makes them truly remarkable is that they stress that the sympathy we extend to those less fortunate than us should not start and end with how morally upright they are.

The Florida Project is a part of a new wave of films that forgo overly sentimental or austere depictions of poverty for the ecstatic truth — soaked in neon colors and full of genuine love for its inhabitants, they are films about poor people that are not "films about poverty." While *The Florida Project* and similar films like *Good Time* and *American Honey* have been hits among critics and film fans alike, their exclusion from the Academy Awards has been baffling.

So while this season's Best Picture lineup features a film about the many forms racism can take, a film that wants to make America believe in journalists again, and a film about two men falling in love, none of these movies explicitly address class in any meaningful way. America is a nation more divided by class than ever, and when the Academy seems to function more as a group that awards films on how relevant they are to the Western world than the state of cinema itself, this feels like a major mistake.

Honestly, the Academy nominating a movie for Best Picture doesn't really matter all that much in terms of artistic fulfillment. A film is a film no matter how many awards it wins. However, as *Moonlight's* Best Picture win and *Get Out's* nomination prove, the Oscars is by far the best way for a film, a director, an idea, or an artistic movement to make a cultural impact. *The Florida Project* is a movie that captures the imperfect existence of Americans who are often demonized or valorized to the point of inhumanity. By not nominating it for Best Picture, the Academy is doing a disservice to a society that is rapidly closing itself off to realities that don't resemble its own.

“Fourging” forward

Can the Lady Mules complete the seemingly impossible feat of winning four consecutive conference championships?

By Max Shapiro
Staff Writer

Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Left: The Women’s Basketball team stands for the National Anthem at Haverford, their opponent in the first round of the CC playoffs. Right: Sara Dilly ‘19 goes up for the shot during the Mules’ regular season contest at Gettysburg, the host of the 2017-18 women’s Centennial Conference playoffs.

New year, same Mules.

With regular season action in the books, the women’s basketball team is once again set to make a run in the Centennial Conference playoffs. With a sparkling 17-3 record in conference play, the Mules head into the tournament as the second overall seed, good for a first-round bye. They will take on Haverford in the semifinal of the tournament, while top seed and host, Gettysburg, awaits the winner of the play-in game between Ursinus and Johns Hopkins.

The girls closed out their regular season in style, with a solid win at home against McDaniel on senior day. Though the final deficit was only 10, the Mules controlled the entire game and led wire to wire. On a day when the team honored its four graduating players, the seniors did not disappoint. Christina Manning ‘18 filled up the stat sheet with 7 points, 4 rebounds and 3 assists. Rachel Plotke ‘18 shot 80 percent from the floor and drained five threes to lead the team in scoring with 22 points. She now has 238 career three point shots made, good for fourth on the all-time Centennial Conference leaderboard. Senior forward Chelsea Gary finished in double figures as well. She dropped 14 points along with six rebounds, moving her up to ninth on the all-time Muhlenberg rebounds list with 629. The four Muhlenberg seniors, including star guard Brandi Vallely, have combined for 3,641 points, 1,581 rebounds and 919 assists over their recruiting class’ four years at Muhlenberg. They also hold a career record of 88-22, the fourth most victories of any senior class in program history.

The team was without Vallely on senior day, as they have been for the last two games. Vallely was injured in the girls’ one-point loss versus Gettysburg on Feb. 8, and with their place in the conference tournament already solidified, has been rested in preparation for the competitive games the Mules will compete in during the playoffs. The early outlook looks good for Vallely, who is expected to play without restriction in the team’s tournament semifinal matchup.

That matchup pits the girls in a rubber match against Haverford, who handed them one of only three defeats in conference play. The Mules split in their two games with the Fords, winning at home in a tight ballgame, 53-51 back on December 6. They dropped the road contest 52-44 just two weeks ago. “We’re expecting a tight game. All of our games this year against tough teams like Haverford and Gettysburg have been decided by just a handful of points, and I don’t see that changing now. I expect it will be entertaining for the fans and nerve wracking for us. I’m looking forward to it,” said Head Coach Ron Rohn, of the matchup.

The road to a fourth straight conference title will run through Gettysburg in multiple ways, as the top seed in the tournament is the Bullets. Being the top seed, Gettysburg will most likely be favored in their own semifinal matchup no matter whom they face. The Bullets are the only team the Mules have not beaten this season at least once, dropping game both games, 67-62 and 71-70 respectively. In fact, the Mules have only allowed 60 points to opponents four times in their 20 conference games, so tightening up their defense will be imperative to dodge the Bullets.

The Mules will tip off against Haverford in Gettysburg, Pa. on Friday night, Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. With a win, they’ll play in the Centennial Conference championship game on Saturday at 5 p.m. against the winner of Gettysburg’s semifinal game. The quest for a fourth straight conference title is harder than ever, but these girls are out to prove that they’re still the crown jewel of Centennial Conference basketball.

“We’re excited. We have the chance to do something that’s never been done before — four straight titles — and hopefully it will be the start of a long playoff run for us into the NCAA tournament,” said Rohn.

Mules knock down 3’s to knock out cancer

Men’s Basketball participates in a nationwide fundraiser to raise money for cancer research

By Alex Horowitz
Sports Editor

Muhlenberg basketball has relied heavily on three point shot this season, but their success from downtown is doing much more than just helping them win games on the court. The program is helping in the fight against cancer too.

Muhlenberg College is just one of many collegiate basketball programs across the country that participated in the ‘Coaches vs. Cancer Challenge’ this year. The challenge encourages fans to pledge any amount of money for every three pointer the team makes throughout the season. Started at the University of Missouri by their former head coach and cancer survivor Norm Stewart, collegiate basketball programs have directly been able to join the fight against cancer.

By being direct participants in contributing to the challenge, players on the men’s basketball team have embraced the challenge of their own in helping the fight against cancer. Many of the players on the team have had loved ones battle cancer, so the challenge holds an even greater meaning for them.

“This challenge means a lot to me. Personally I have lost three important people in my life to cancer. I think it’s great that we are doing what we are doing. I think more teams should take part in activities like this to build awareness and help a great cause,” says shooting guard Brendan Hughes ‘19.

The Mules are not the only Division 3 program participating in the challenge. Current Head Coach of the Muhlenberg men’s basketball team Kevin Hopkins said that his team at Amherst College participated in the challenge last year as well when he was an assistant coach there. Hopkins said that “we had some success with the challenge so I wanted to bring it with me to Muhlenberg.”

Other players understand the importance of the challenge in bringing national awareness to Muhlenberg’s dedication to the fight against cancer. Forward Erik Werheim ‘19 says, “I think that the challenge is a great way to get people involved and spread awareness about the fight against cancer. I personally know many people who cancer has affected, whether it has been them personally or a family member. The more people and teams that get involved the better.”

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Brendan Hughes ‘19 led the Mules with 52 successful three point attempts during the 2017-18 season.

The men’s team finished their season at McDaniel College on Saturday Feb. 17, and finished the campaign with a total of 231 successful three point baskets. Three sharp shooters, Hughes (52), Matt Gnias (49) ‘20, and Nick Rindock (40) ‘18 led the 2018 squad from beyond the arch. The team’s incredible fight against a horrible disease has made the 2018 season a lot more than wins and losses for the team, and more about a big win for society.

Rounding the final turn

Mules Men's and Women's Track and Field Program prepare for the upcoming Conference Championships

By Brandon Kossin
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, Feb. 24, the Men's and Women's Winter Track and Field teams will head to Ursinus College to participate in the Centennial Conference Championships.

The team has high expectations for this event, and are confident in finding a spot on the podium at the end of the daty. Both squads will be relying heavily on their seniors, as they have gained valuable experience from participating in past conference championships.

Specifically, the men's team will be counting on seniors Mike Havkins, Anthony Calantoni and Anthony Ware; the women will be led by veterans Emily Davidson, Jamie Pacilio, Mallory Snyder, Shana Joseph, Hayley Steckler and Kaci Gregory '18.

Although Head Coach Brad Hackett is excited to see how his seniors lead, he is also looking forward to see how the team's young athletes will react to their first championship meet. Hacket mentions Luke Ullman, Zach Lill, Andrew Fiore, Jack Weinberger, Declan Walkush, and Jeffrey Alvarez as first years for the men's team who can help the program achieve their goals.. Additionally, for the women's squad, Hackett cited freshmen Emily Mitchell, Alana Noehrenberg, Jill Lissner and Courtney Blake. Hackett's likes the composition of his team, which is neither top or bottom heavy. The balanced mix will not only help the Mules in this championship, but be beneficial moving forward not relying too much on a single class of athletes.

Photos Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Top: Anthony Calantoni '18 runs at the Armory in New York, touted as one of the fastest indoor tracks in the country. Bottom: One of Coach Hackett's freshmen to watch, Zach Lill '21, pole vaults at the Armory.

Throughout the current winter season, Hackett has witnessed major improvements from a few of the program's athletes. "Chris Funge improved in the 900 from 2:05 last year to 2:01 this season; Santina Zouras, who ran 5:24 last year in the mile and ran 5:16 last weekend; and Corey Mullins, who has improved from 4:25 in the mile last year to 4:17 this year," said Hackett. With such improvements upon the already stellar results out of some athletes within the program, Hackett deserves to be pleased with their hard work and effort in preparation for their championship meet.

Hackett has been coaching Muhlenberg Track and Field since 1999. With his experience, he knows the proper techniques to prepare his team for victory.

To prepare for the conference championship this year, Coach Hackett had his squad run at the Armory in New York City, one of the fastest indoor tracks in the country. Hackett explained how the location will help moving forward, saying that "[Participating at the Armory] really gave the athletes an opportunity to run fast and feel what it is like to run fast."

The other portion of the team's preparation for the championships, and most crucial portion according to Hackett, is making sure that they have gotten the appropriate amount of rest. "We are peaking right now and rest is the most important component to that," said Hackett.

As the Mules round the final turn and head toward the finish line of their season, the program's preparation has put them in a position to not finish strong.

SOUTHERN SMASH muhlenberg

Tuesday
February 27

11:00 - 3:00
Seegers Union 113

sponsored by
Muhlenberg College Dining

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NEDA
NEDAwareness
National Eating Disorders Awareness Week
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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Thursday, February 22, 2018

Coming up this week in

SPORTS

Women's Basketball

VS

Friday, Feb. 23 @ 8:00 PM
Gettysburg, PA

The women begin their quest for a fourth straight Centennial Conference Championship against Haverford in the first round of the CC Playoffs. The Mules split the season series with Haverford at one game a piece.

Baseball

Bison Classic

Feb. 24 through Feb. 25
Washington, D.C.

The Baseball team opens their season at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. as part of the first ever Bison Classic.

Men's and Women's Track & Field

Centennial Conference Championships

Saturday, Feb. 24
Collegeville, PA

The Men's and Women's Track and Field teams head to Ursinus with hopes of landing on the podium.

Wrestling

NCAA Mideast Regionals

Saturday, Feb. 24
Ithaca, NY

Mules look to tap into Conference Championship success at Ithaca College.

Men's Lacrosse

VS

Saturday, Feb. 24 @ 1:00 PM
Scotty Wood Stadium

The lacrosse team looks to take down a team they haven't defeated since 2015.

Earning a grand: Nick Rindock

MUHLENBERG
15

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

Nick Rindock '18 drives to the hoop during the Mules home contest against Johns Hopkins.

BY ALYSSA HERTEL
MANAGING EDITOR

A sea of red takes over the hardwood floor of an otherwise lackluster high school gymnasium. Rob Rindock sits in the stands at Freedom High School, a camera rested in between two shaky hands, ready to capture the moment his son leaves the bench. Nick Rindock, a sophomore at Parkland High School, runs through a makeshift tunnel of his teammates, past the cheerleaders stunting, shakes the hand of the opposing coach and joins the huddle. His father sacrifices cheering for his son to record the moment.

His name is padded between those of his teammates. To unknowing fans in the crowd, those five starters are just boys who happened to go to the same high school and play the same sport. But for Rindock, he has learned the game with them. The announcer rattles off junior Austin Beidelman first, Rindock is called third and sophomore Justin Zajko comes last.

Three high schoolers, three names, three boys who have been on the court together since they joined the fifth and sixth grade Parkland Youth Center basketball team. They were built for success early and won all but a few games and four league titles combined before they began their freshman years.

For some, this is just another game. For Rindock, on a cold night in early 2012, he just got his first varsity start. Six years later, he will score his 1,000 point as a Muhlenberg College basketball player, just 10 minutes down Cedar Crest Boulevard from his high school alma mater.

Rindock knew this was his sport from a young age. He thinks the first time he joined an official team was around four or five years old, but dribbling and shooting came naturally to the now 6-foot-4 guard. With both a love for playing and watching the game, he spent most of his childhood - and life - playing basketball. Traditionally a winter sport, basketball became a year-round affair for Rindock. Before he made Parkland's varsity team, he split his time between middle school teams and Amateur Athletic Union basketball.

> **"Senior year has been amazing. I'm thrilled to be healthy again and we beat two Top 25 teams in the country."**

In high school he played on the varsity team during the regular season, and kept up on his game at SportsFest over the summer. He found the same success at that outdoor competition that he did in Parkland's gym, leading his team to back-to-back SportsFest championships, despite an overturned ankle.

Finishing with 22 points and going 4-0 on the day, he had earned the title of tournament MVP. He had won another title, this time at Cedar Beach, right next to the college he would soon call home, a place he would see from his room in Benfer 305.

At Parkland, Rindock built off his grade school success. With two years under his belt, Rindock was named team captain during his senior season at Parkland. After leading his team to one District 11 Class 4A championship during his junior year, he wanted a repeat. He was sidelined with a sprained ankle, missing key games against Bethlehem Catholic and Allentown Central Catholic, who boasted Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman, a now point guard for Michigan, on its roster.

Rindock returned with a vengeance, scoring 18 points in his first game back. Then it came time to face Central again. Playing alongside Alex Mitton '18 and competing against Jeanlee Baez '18, Rindock made sure to show the Vikings what they missed the first time around - scoring 28 points, including 10 in a row.

Despite their best efforts, the Parkland boys basketball team would end up losing that game, but it did not matter in the long run. They would go on to win their second consecutive District 11 Class 4A championship, and Rindock was already committed to play college ball at Muhlenberg.

"That's my favorite basketball memory," said Rindock, "winning back to back district championships with the guys I grew up playing with since fourth grade."

At Muhlenberg, his success continued. He was third on the squad in scoring and fourth in the Centennial Conference in field-goal percentage. He became a permanent figure in the starting lineup for the final 11 games. During his sophomore year, Rindock was the only player in the CC to lead his team in scoring, rebounding and three-point shooting.

And then another injury forced him to end his season early and watch from the sidelines after just 15 games played.

"The program went through a lot within the last year and I had a ruined junior season because of a recurring ankle injury," said Rindock. "Senior year has been amazing. I'm thrilled to be healthy again and we beat two Top 25 teams in the country."

Against nationally ranked Swarthmore, Rindock was more focused on keeping his team's playoff hopes alive than scoring 17 points to reach the 1,000 point mark for his career. He did both. Playing 41 minutes, Rindock scored a career-high 33 points to beat Swarthmore in overtime - a team Muhlenberg men's basketball has not bested since before Rindock's freshman year.

"Scoring 1,000 points was something I always wanted to do since I started playing," said Rindock. "It was halftime and someone told me I only needed five more. The half started and I hit a three-pointer, and shortly after coach called a set for me to get the ball and I made a pull-up jumper for my 1,000th. But the best part of the night was that we were able to beat the number seven team in the country. My teammates are great and my coaches put me in great positions to score and lead the team, so a lot of credit goes to them."

Amongst a sea of red, Nick Rindock sits with his parents, Rob and Lisa, at his brother Logan's game. He likes this aspect of playing college basketball close to home, he can still support the three most important people in his life. A few people will stop to say hello, congratulate him on 1,000 points, ask about his post-graduation plans - a symptom of being a successful local athlete.

Logan grew up around Parkland's basketball programs, he saw what it took to make a winning team with his brother - a 1,000 point scorer - there for advice. Nick relaxes on the bleachers, taking a break from his own busy schedule to watch the prosperous program he helped mold, continue to be a powerhouse. Knowing that at two Allentown schools, people will remember his name.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:
For the softball team, success on the field is aided by the time and effort they spend together off the field.
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A glance through the looking glass:

Enter the world of the absurd with Spring 2018's first theatre mainstage: Ubu Roi, Alfred Jarry's Dadaist allegory for the dangers of totalitarian power - and perhaps the political climate of today.

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Cole Geissler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Putting a price on 2019

What to expect from the annual tuition increase

By Chloe Gravereaux
Asst. Managing Editor

The total cost of tuition, fees, room and board will raise by 3.4 percent in the next academic year, stated President John I. Williams Jr. in a letter to parents sent out earlier this week.

"While this is the second smallest increase in [our comprehensive fee in] nearly 20 years at Muhlenberg, we value the significant commitment of such an investment and know that any increase can present challenges for students and families," said Williams in the letter. "Accordingly, we take great care in assessing an array of financial factors before making such decisions."

The change, which was approved by the Board of Trustees, raises the total cost of a year's education at Muhlenberg to $64,235, taking into account a gold meal plan and a standard double room. This is an increase of a little more than $2,000 for the same set up in the previous year, which is still less than the previous two years' tuition raises.

Between 2010-11 and 2015-16, tuition and fees have increased an average of 3.7 percent each year. Academic years 2017-18, and 2016-17, however, saw a 4.87 percent increase and a 4.8 percent increase respectively, totaling $5,605 in two years.

The decision to raise tuition is additionally carefully researched by a collective group of individuals, explained Bill Keller, executive director of communications.

"The Board of Trustees reviews tuition recommendations developed through careful research and assessment by President Williams and his senior staff," said Keller. "The decisions made to set a tuition, fees, room and board are determined by Board approval."

Although the College predicts an increase in financial aid in the 2018-19 school year, as it does every year, it did not directly say if it will raise financial aid to compensate for the raise in tuition. The amount of aid a student receives depends on their individual situation, explained Keller.

"Financial Aid is funded through a combination of op-

see **Tuition and Fees** page 4

Graduation date change stirs up controversy among class of 2018

By Sydney Coplin
Staff Writer

Last Spring -- Wednesday, April 5 2017 -- students from the Class of 2018, as well as parents and faculty, received an email from President Williams indicating that the 2018 Graduation was being moved a Friday:

"We are making an important change to the timing of Commencement for the Class of 2018. Commencement 2018 will take place on Friday, May 18, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. This change from our usual pattern of Sunday Commencement will help us avoid holding Commencement on Shavuot, a Jewish holiday. It is important that the entire class should be able to come together to celebrate, and this schedule change will enable a Commencement ceremony that includes our entire community."

Despite this communication being put forth nearly a year ago, many of the seniors, who are now less than one hundred days from graduating, are still left feeling unsure about the necessity for this change.

"While many people don't know about this holiday, it is actually one of the most important ones in the Jewish calendar as it commemorates the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people," said Gracie Gottlieb '18, who explained the conflict. "Having Graduation on this day creates many issues for Jews who celebrate this holiday as there are many restrictions to observe it which are similar to the rules of Shabbat."

Upon learning about the conflicting dates last year, Williams described the "lengthy and involved process" that it took in order to get to the point where Graduation actually had to get moved.

"We assembled a lot of people, talked to a lot of students about this, pretty sure within Hillel," said Williams, "There are a tremendous number of staff involved in Commencement: Campus safety, Registrar, Provost's Office, Dining services."

Before arriving at the decision to have a Friday Commencement, there were many alternatives being deliberated.

see **Graduation** page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, February 19
Information - 9:29 p.m.
In Taylor Hall, there was a report of a missing kitchen knife.

Tuesday, February 20
Found Property - 12:30 p.m.
In East Hall, there was a report of found money. It is unknown to whom the item belongs. The money was placed in a lost and found locker.

Point of Information - 4:26 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of a possible smell of marijuana. The area was checked, and nothing could be noted.

Found Property - 5:00 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of found debit cards. A message was left with the owner to pick them up at the Campus Safety Office. The items were placed in a lost and found locker.

Thursday, February 22
Safety Hazard - 3:37 p.m.
At 2201 Chew Street, there was a report of a fire safety violation. A covered smoke detector found while performing room checks, and Residential Services notified.

Property Damage - 6:58 p.m.
In Brown Hall, there was a report of a fallen ceiling tile. Plant Operations was notified to respond and repair the damage.

Point of Information - 11:02 p.m.
On Tilghman Street, there was a report of a noise complaint. Allentown Police Department also responded, and nothing could be found.

Saturday, February 24
Alcohol Violation - 1:15 a.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation, possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana. There was also the fire safety violation of a covered smoke detector. The items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in an evidence locker. They were referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Alcohol Violation - 4:25 a.m.
In East Hall, there was a report of an injured student and an alcohol violation. Allentown EMS responded and transported the student to the hospital. Allentown Police Department responded as well.

Point of Information - 12:00 p.m.
At 2147 Chew Street, there was a report of a possible entry to the residence by an animal. The area was checked, and nothing could be noted at this time.

Alcohol Violation - 10:37 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and the alcohol was disposed of by a Campus Safety Officer. A beer pong table was brought to Campus Safety and placed in an evidence locker.

Alcohol Violation - 10:40 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and the alcohol was disposed of by a Campus Safety Officer. A beer pong table was brought to Campus Safety and placed in an evidence locker.

Sunday, February 25
Disruptive Conduct Report - 12:14 a.m.
At an off campus location, there was a report of a noise complaint. Upon arrival, the residents were identified and spoken to, and the area was cleared. A Disruptive Conduct Report was issued by the College.

Drug Violation - 12:37 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and the items were brought to Campus Safety and placed in an evidence locker.

'18 Spring Break Hours of Operation

Muhlenberg College Dining

DATE	WOOD DINING	MULE EXPRESS	GQ	JAVA JOE	LSC CAFE	SHUTTLE
FRIDAY 3/2	REGULAR HOURS	CLOSED	7AM - 2PM	8:30AM - 2PM	CLOSED	NO SERVICE
SAT. - SUN. 3/3 - 3/4	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	1PM - 5PM
MON. - FRI. 3/5 - 3/9	CLOSED	CLOSED	8AM - 2PM	CLOSED	CLOSED	1PM - 5PM
SATURDAY 3/10	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	1PM - 5PM
SUNDAY 3/11	REGULAR HOURS	CLOSED	12PM - 12AM	CLOSED	CLOSED	NO SERVICE

Meal Plans end at 7:00pm on Friday, March 2 and resume at 10:00am on Sunday, March 11.

Life after wartime: living with PTSD

Panel discussion traces root of disorder through the years

By Julia Fritz
Contributing Writer

Sergeant David Emme was in a supply truck when the IUD exploded.

"I didn't know who I was when I woke up," he said. "I wanted to die to get rid of the pain."

Traveling in a convoy in Iraq, Emme's assignment was still considered a combat attack since they had the possibility of falling under attack. The truck was en route when Emme noticed teenage boys beside the road.

"They were giving us cut-throat signs," he said. "They were warning us."

They barely had time to react. The explosion happened near the vehicle. The driver of the truck ignored his wounds in order to bandage Emme, who was pulled out the truck to safety.

Shrapnel embedded into his brain required removal of a large piece of his skull. He lay in a coma for days following the attack. The headaches are a physical reminder. The emotional scars are another thing entirely.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has only recently been recognized as a psychiatric issue since the rise of psychology and neurology studies. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), a handbook used by healthcare professionals, defines PTSD as "exposure to a traumatic event that meets specific stipulations and symptoms from each of four symptom clusters: intrusion, avoidance, negative alterations in cognitions and mood, and alterations in arousal and reactivity." It emerged during World War I at a time when no clinical terms were used to describe mental distress. Instead, stigmatizing labels were cast on soldiers who experienced emotional suffering.

"Soldiers were reluctant to admit to mental distress," said Dr. Dan Wilson, professor of history at Muhlenberg.

Servicemen were soon diagnosed with "shell shock." Aside from the physical injuries of an explosion, they experienced amnesia, paralysis, and deafness. As the United States partook in more wars, different definitions were used to explain the same symptoms: war neurosis, exhaustion. Psychologists struggled to diagnose soldiers in fear they were malingering, or exaggerating illness to avoid the war.

"There were no organic manifestations," Wilson said. "[Many] doctors held the same stance: If there was no physical wound, the soldier suffered from cowardice or malingering."

With more soldiers falling ill to this mysterious disorder, a common goal emerged among military administration: get soldiers back to their unit as quickly as possible. It was more important to have men on the line than to figure out the plague that was sweeping across every branch of the military.

Major Nathan Kline of the Air Force, and a Muhlenberg alumnus, knows firsthand the stress of war. He flew 65 missions during World War II as a bombardier-navigator, and was shot down twice in the span of a week.

"I wasn't [even] 21 when I flew as a bombardier in Europe," Kline said.

After being shot down, Kline was sent to a rest home in England.

"The day before I returned [to duty], the crew I had flown with for the last twelve years was shot down and all killed. I should have been on that mission."

After returning home from the war, Kline started to experience PTSD symptoms. He was admitted to the hospital for months. When he looked in the mirror, he couldn't recognize himself.

"My eyes were like red coals," he said.

Kline found solace talking with other patients. He could relate to what they were going through. It became clear that every returning soldier struggled with similar baggage.

"When I was in that coma, I felt like I was in hell." Emme described the pain after his attack as unbearable, like his head was on fire. Emme is afraid to fall asleep every night because it feels like a shock wave is going off.

For Kline, it was similar.

"I would do crazy things in my sleep," he said. "When I'm under stress, it really comes back. It's hard to explain how it feels. It's something I will never forget."

As long as the military exists, so will PTSD and other mental illnesses. Young men and women are not only signing up for promises of heroism, but emotional distress as well. Open dialogue on mental illness has brought attention to the invisible wounds, but what's more important is talking about what can be done.

For Senior Master Sergeant Jeff Capwell, meeting with other veterans helps manage his well-being.

"I can go in there and walk out feeling better," he said. "We get strength from each other."

For Emme, that meant working towards a degree from the Wescoe School despite headaches that left him disabled for months and made completing school work impossible.

"You could see at certain points he would struggle," said Joe Kornfeind, Associate Dean of the Wescoe School, who had Emme in his leadership class. "He had one paper to hand in to earn his degree and he couldn't hand it in. It took a year until he was able to."

Despite the damage Emme experienced emotionally and physically, he found the perseverance to keep moving forward. When he handed in the final paper, Kornfeind was astounded. Emme's paper included a learning model of what he himself did when his PTSD became overwhelming.

"It was one of the best papers I ever read."

At war for the heart of America

Visiting presenter Garrett Blad speaks on positivity and unity in the heat of the battle to cool our climate

By Ian Adler
Layout Editor

Ian Adler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Blad detailed the difficulty of reframing climate change for a broader audience.

When you see the word elephant, what comes to mind? The color grey? A trunk? Peanuts? The circus? The word 'elephant' triggers your neuron frame, or thoughts and visualizations derived from your own moral base. On Thursday, Feb. 22, Garrett Blad presented fellow environmentalists with their biggest challenge — how do we fit the phrase 'climate change' into everyone's moral base?

"If people don't find it meaningful, they won't find it true," said Blad, the Executive Coordinator of SustainUS, at his talk titled "Reframing Climate Change: How we change the story to build power and win." Blad's talk, sponsored by the Environmental Activism Team (EnAcT), offered students progressive strategies for communicating the importance of our contemporary climate change crisis.

Historically, climate change has inspired feelings of guilt and insignificance rather than hope and effort. Blad focused on positive reinforcement as well as community-based action to avoid potential accusations or messages of guilt.

"The elephants are being stirred in America by frames that are really against everything that I believe — everything that's going to help us to solve climate change which is coming together, being a community and caring for every person no matter where they come from," said Blad in a question and answer session after the talk.

With only 50 minutes of climate change broadcast news coverage in 2016 (according to Media Matters for America), the conversation can be hard to continue, or even start. The urgency gap of long- and short-term issues puts climate change in the backs of many Americans' minds — a quarter of us never even hear someone we know talk about it according to a poll by the Center for Climate Change Communication.

"We do need to address a broader impact of getting the media to cover this crisis in a way that they've never done," said Blad. "I think we're going to do that through a lot of creative ways like moral protest and engaging in disruptions ... hopefully there will be a tipping point where they change their mindset and start covering this pretty regularly."

Blad also touched on the "BIG US, small them," idea, emphasizing the democratic values that America's political system was founded on.

"The only way we're really going to face this is by saying 'there are a few people that have made decisions that have got us in this mess and those people should be held responsible for those decisions," added Blad, "'because it's endangering the lives of millions and millions of people across the planet.'"

Students in attendance found that Blad's overall themes of positivity, personalization and a sense of communal action resonated well within a mostly like-minded crowd. However, the real task is getting these messages to resonate outside of the presentation-space.

"The next time I'm talking to my family about the newest data that's come out about climate change, I'll relate it more to something that's important to them," said Marta Rardin '20, EnAcT's Public Relations Representative, "just like how when you would talk to someone or ask them about their job, so that it's in the context of something they deal with in their day-to-day lives."

Putting the story into the perspective and vernacular of the audience is one of the first steps to get more and more Americans on board. Often times, the language of scientists can be convoluted or intimidating — even to the people that study it. As more and more people continue to become active in mitigating climate change, Americans will continue to see more and more positive returns.

"It's easy to be scared and to think my actions aren't even going to count toward anything," said Rardin. "If we can start performing positive actions, there will be positive outcomes. They may not be the ones we expect, but we can start something. We just have to start."

Protest punishment worries? ‘Berg’s got your back

Admissions Department clarifies College′s stance for prospective students

By Gregory Kantor
Editor-in-Chief

Over the weekend, Muhlenberg publicly affirmed the rights of prospective students to peacefully protest, particularly in light of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas mass shooting in Parkland, Fla.

“We support @Muhlenberg students of today and tomorrow for standing up and peacefully speaking out against violence. You’re welcome here and continue to be,” read the tweet, initially posted by Rob Springall, Vice President for Enrollment Management and later reposted by the College’s official account.

Nearly 160 colleges and universities have similarly indicated that they would not change a prospective student’s admissions decision if the student faces disciplinary actions for peaceful protesting; these statements of support come as part of the larger Never Again MSD movement, an organization founded by survivors of the shooting.

“The combined core of our message was support for the students and an affirmation that peaceful displays of personal conviction are ok,” said Springall. “If a high school principal chooses to suspend a student for participating in a rally, that may be his or her right. The Admissions Committee also has a right and a responsibility to evaluate each episode within context and with sensitivity. An act that a school may call disobedience, but is otherwise peaceful and thoughtful, would not make us revisit an offer of admission.”

“An act that a school may call disobedience, but is otherwise peaceful and thoughtful, would not make us revisit an offer of admission.”

On Sunday, Muhlenberg sent a message to prospective students expanding on Springall’s tweet and related sentiments. As of Monday morning, it had been opened by nearly 2,400 applicants.

“Should current events and your own ethical and civic values move you to find ways to improve our collective future — even if labeled civil disobedience — our community will support you, both now and should you join us this fall,” reads the email.

But in crafting some of the College’s messaging on the topic, Springall noted that the tragedy in Parkland is far from the only social justice cause that prospective students may wish to express their feelings about — ultimately, that language sets Muhlenberg apart from many of the other institutions.

“The message supporting peaceful activism also extends, now and in the future, to other students speaking for causes in which they believe,” said Springall.

The student handbook does not have a specific policy outlining discipline for current students who wish to protest, and who may miss class in doing so. Dr. Kathy Harring, Provost, says that class attendance policies are ultimately determined by each faculty member, in accordance with the College’s attendance policy:

“Students are expected to attend classes regularly and are responsible for governing themselves in this matter ... While the College recognizes the value of extracurricular experience, the academic program has priority at Muhlenberg. Instructors should inform students in the first week of class of their policy regarding the relationship between attendance, interaction in the classroom, and evaluation in the course,” reads the policy.

Regardless, Springall sought to be inclusive for all students of Muhlenberg — prospective and current.

“My intention with the language of our tweet on Saturday was to be supportive and in the moment,” said Springall. “Coming off last Wednesday’s gathering on College Green, I wanted to acknowledge both our current and future students and to send both groups an appreciation for their sentiments.”

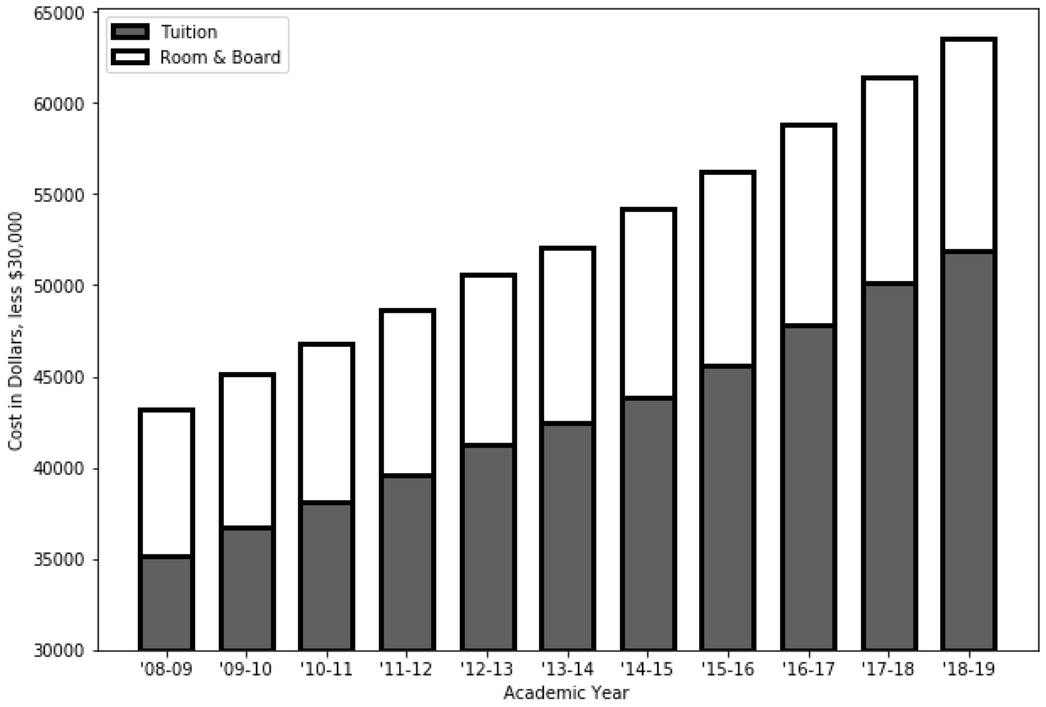
FROM **TUITION AND FEES** PAGE 1

erating income, annual gifts, and income from the College’s endowment,” said Keller. “The final increase will depend on the admissions outcome for the Class of 2022, incoming transfers, and the needs of returning students.”

A College Board survey found that private non-profit four-year colleges have increased tuition, room and board costs outside of inflation by 2.2 percent. Additionally, Muhlenberg’s raise this year is slightly lower than anticipated for those of its competing schools, such as Lehigh, Bucknell, Franklin & Marshall, and Gettysburg, whose rates are predicted to raise about 3.6 percent, according to Keller.

In addition to informing students of the tuition raise, Williams and Keller alike reminded parents and students of the benefits of a Muhlenberg education. Just this past year, Keller explained, the College expanded health and counseling services, funded student and faculty research, and established partnerships with graduate school programs such as Boston University (medicine, public health and management), Lehigh University (management) and American University (finance).

“The experiences that Muhlenberg provides to our students are made possible by funding sources that include tuition and philanthropic support,” said Keller. “These are the types of opportunities a Muhlenberg education provides.”



FROM **GRADUATION** PAGE 1

First came the idea to have two seperate Commencements: one for the Jewish students who had to observe Shavuot, and another for the rest of the students. Nonetheless, this concept was scrapped.

“The idea that we would segregate somehow quickly became one that we saw was not workable because both groups of students would want to graduate with their friends.” Clearly Jewish students are friends with non-Jewish students, so as Williams indicated, “Having to choose...we thought that it would horribly mar the experience down the road.”

With no other dates feasible due to the limitations put forth by accreditation--the need to have a set amount of days of school--the weekday graduation seemed to be the right decision for the amount of students that would be affected. However, many people still feel as if their needs were not being taken into account.

“I understand why graduation was moved, but my understanding is that the Jewish holiday only affects a very small portion of our graduating class since not all members of the Jewish community observe this particular holiday,” explained one senior, who preferred to remain anonymous. “I think it is unfair to punish students whose parents and loved ones might not be able to attend a Friday ceremony due to work and professional obligations.”

A similar pattern in feelings began to arise. “It’s hard when families and graduated friends are working and have trouble taking the day off from work to come to Allentown,” said Ashley Amodeo ‘18.

“My parents are able to attend, after having to take off work. My younger brother will have to miss school, but can only come if he doesn’t have an AP test because it’s AP season,” said Katelyn Winter ‘18. “ My grandparents, who were looking forward to this day, cannot come. “

Other students continued to experience a similar plight, like Dempsey Schott ‘18: “My parents had to take off from work several more days than they would have in a previous year, since I live 6 hours away.” She also acknowledged how other families may not have this same ability. “I know it is a stressor on some families to miss that much work.”

Williams noted that are ways to adjust to the issues described above: “Families have the option to travel on Friday if they do not want to miss a day of work on Thursday.” Looking at specific demographics for Muhlenberg, a majority are located close enough that if necessary, their families can leave early in the morning on Friday to arrive in time for the 10am ceremony.

Another topic that has worried members of the Class of 2018 is regarding Senior Week, and the belief that it will now be altered due to an earlier Graduation date.

After reaching out to the 2018 Class Council, they wished to make it known that the “2018 Class Council, who puts on most of the Senior Week events, says that all of the Senior Week events will still occur, just on a different time schedule. Class Council is not involved in the planning or execution of Graduation.”

Ultimately, there are members of the graduating class that have been able to adjust to the change, such as Sappho Stringfellow ‘18: “It would be easier for my family if it was a weekend, but they are making it work so it’s fine.”

All in all, Williams made it clear that despite this situation being complicated, the root for the change was too important to neglect: “For all the values that we are talking about, it felt right.”

Williams pointed out the fact that, “many other colleges commence on a weekday, we are not the only college.”

“We did look at ignoring it, as many other colleges do. Many colleges ignore the Jewish holidays, but students and their families would find it impossible [to attend] due to work restrictions”

"We believe … that the applause of silence is the only kind that counts." —Alfred Jarry

A toast to survival:
Purim as a celebration of change

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

Raise your glass to food, drink, celebration and the survival of the Jewish people — this is the holiday known as Purim. This past Saturday, Feb. 24, I attended Muhlenberg Hillel's Purim Carnival. Very reminiscent of how my own Temple celebrated the festival, brightly colored decorations decked the Hillel house like ivy, music blared and echoed throughout the halls and bowls and bowls of food lay displayed and open for all to enjoy. It was a carnival — but why? Various Jewish holidays throughout the year celebrate through the act of gorging food and guzzling drink, but why does Purim in particular stand above them?

Purim, to describe it frankly, is a kind of Jewish Halloween, though the only commonality between the two is dressing up in costumes. Beyond that, the holidays are very different.

Annie Cannon '21, the Religious Chair of the Student Executive Board, describes Purim as a time of celebration and change, a point at which we celebrate the reverse of what is expected:

"Purim is a celebration of the Jewish people defying, and reversing, their fate. We were destined for death — yet we prevailed. In turn, we dress up as our 'opposites' — celebrating that change."

Opposites, meaning to dress as something you're not; a costume that represents an antithesis to your own character. This was the original concept; of course, nowadays most just dress as whatever they want.

Purim itself occurs on the fourteenth of Adar in the Jewish calendar, marking a point of late winter and early spring. The celebrations specifically surround a story that is often re-enacted and parodied by temples and synagogues around the world.

"It's the story of Queen Esther performed in the form of a 'Purim Spiel' … we celebrate how she freed the Jews." Mimi Salters '21, who helped organize the Purim carnival, briefly explained while arranging a few decorations.

As previously described by Cannon, it is a tale of the Jewish people surviving what should have been a politically charged massacre. The main characters are Mordechai, our hero, Esther, our heroine, and Haman, our antagonist.

Esther's story, derived from the Megillah, begins with the king of Shushan drunkenly summoning Queen Vashti to dance for him and his peers. This dance included the withdrawing of clothing. Queen Vashti saw herself as above such things and outwardly refused, after which the king condemned her to banishment. With a lack of a queen, a contest was created for all the women of Shushan to attend — whoever the king chose would be queen. One of these women was Esther, who kept her Jewish identity a secret from all except her uncle Mordechai. Of course, Esther was chosen to be queen, and all appeared well. However, the king's royal vizier, Haman, self-sworn enemy to the Jewish people, plotted the Jews' complete annihilation.

A series of events soon revealed that Esther had to either risk execution by appearing before the king unannounced or allowing her people to perish. Of course, Esther chose to save the Jewish people. It is her brave act that Purim celebrates to this day.

However, the holiday seems to go far beyond the retelling of this tale.

"Purim is a time for celebration, for people coming together. Having the event at Hillel embodies the holiday," describes Justin Greenbaum '19 as he hangs a few streamers.

So, what is Purim? A story retold, a festival performed, and a lesson embodied, Purim is a holiday transcending the Jewish lens. Regardless of your religious affiliation, this bright and joyous holiday, full of theatricality and more than its fair share of noise-making, has something valuable to give: in a time when bravery and unity can be hard to find within ourselves, the story of Purim reminds us that we can all be Queen Esther if we so choose.

Cole Geissler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Jill Friedland '21 (left) and Kendra Weingast '20 share a laugh as they partake in the costumed festivities of Purim at Hillel.

Theater seniors stage Anti-Showcase Cabaret

By Emma Forgione
Contributing Writer

This past Friday, I got to see some wonderful people perform in the Senior Anti-Showcase to help raise money for the Theater Senior Showcase happening on Mar. 3 weekend. As a part of Senior Showcase, the students will work with and perform for agents and casting directors in New York City.

But the Anti-Showcase was a slightly different ball game. At the Anti-Showcase, the performers sang any Broadway song they wanted and audience members had the option to pie them during their songs. Drew Maidment '18 and Matt Gill '18 were the M.C.s, and led us through a journey of silliness and pies. In my opinion, the pies actually aided a lot of the performers and got them to really bring out their best. Esther Kruman '18 sang a beautiful rendition of "Don't Rain On My Parade," and with every hand motion she gave, another person got a sprinkling of whipped cream.

Though performer Delaney Wilbur '18 knew what the showcase would entail, she was still not fully prepared for its reality. "I think it was getting pied in the face several times a song … I thought about, okay, my face will get gross and my shirt will get gross. I didn't consider my hair. That was a situation."

Carolyn Bonaccorsi '18 and Wilbur's performance was a standout. They sang a duet called "Strong Woman Number" and had five audience members come up to pie them consecutively during the song. Wilbur elaborates further on her specific experiences within the show itself: "It's a tradition where seniors prepare songs that we either super wouldn't sing for Showcase or you wouldn't get cast as or are overdone, etc., and you perform them. And, for a small fee, your friends can pie you in the face!"

She continues, "It's … nice because we're mostly preparing … for the showcase either solo or in groups of … two and we're not really seeing the work everyone's doing, so it's nice to come together and just do something silly as a whole group. There are people involved that didn't actually perform for it that are in Showcase so it's nice to do something as a group."

The performance that takes the cake (or the pie?) was Maidment and Gill's, in which they sang "Baptize Me" from The Book of Mormon and got a whopping line of nine pies, myself included. Poor Drew was covered in whipped cream by the end, receiving an especially soggy pie to the belly.

But the performance that really brought it home was Cameron Silliman '18, Bree Ogaldez '18, and Gabby Hines '18 singing "Mama I'm a Big Girl Now" from Hairspray. They danced, sang, and slayed with and without pie on their faces.

"I think my favorite part was getting to perform with [Cameron and Gabby]," said Ogaldez. "The girls are my best friends and we've been in shows together but have never gotten to perform in a trio, and I loved that chance to use our close relationships to help our individual talents shine even more!"

Ogaldez continued, "Anti-showcase helped remind me to breathe and just have fun while performing, which I think is so important for the final showcase. [It is] a simple opportunity to show people who I am, and [I] hope that that inspires them to get to know me more."

The experience was a little insane, but it was nice to see all of my fellow theater majors doing their thing and raising money for their futures. The silliness of this performance was the perfect foil to the seriousness of the final showcase. Though the seniors may have only a few months left before they sing their final songs as Muhlenberg students, they will always be able to cherish the memories made whilst singing for and with their friends — and the pie that came along for the ride.

Additional reporting by Brooke Weber and Lauren Mazur

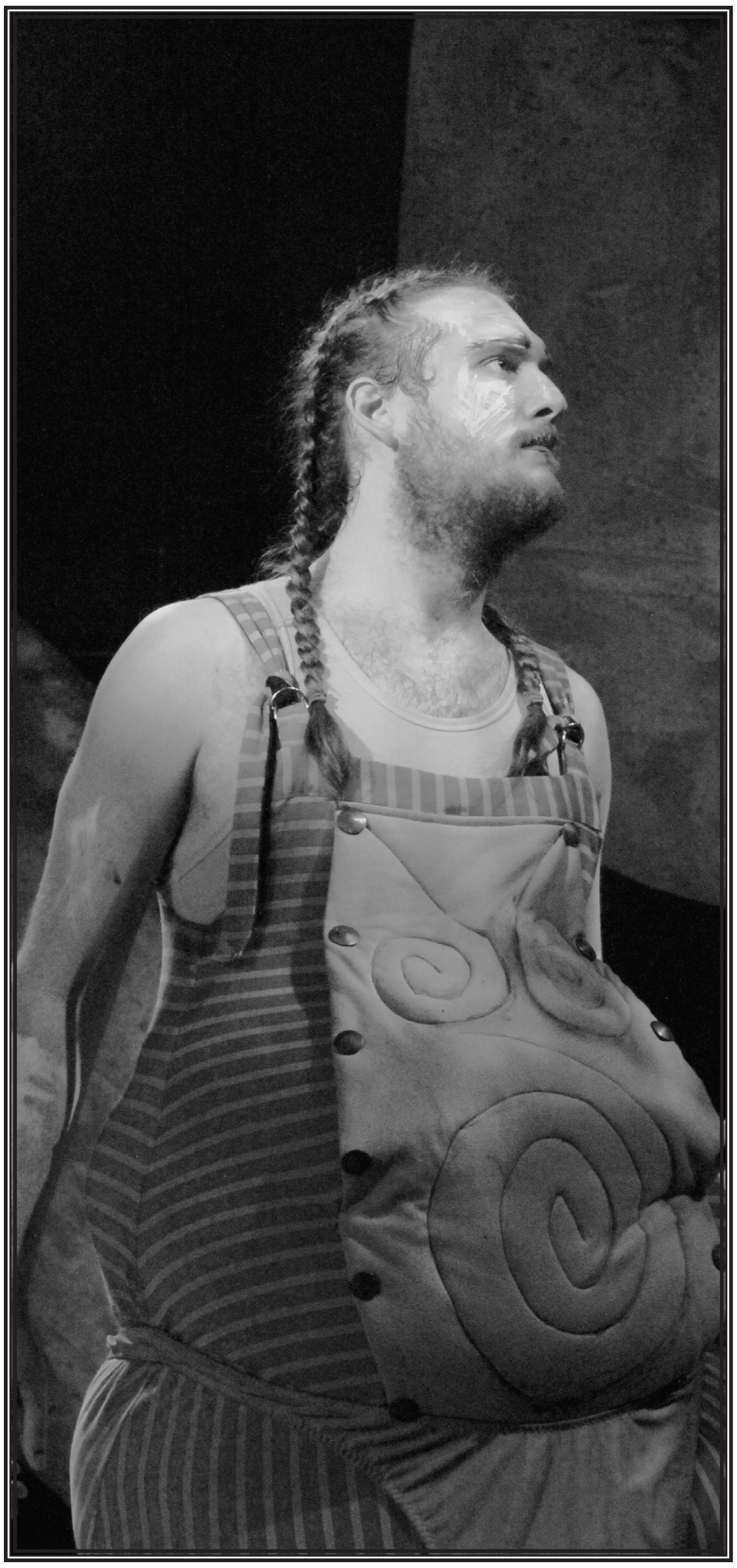
The Times of Poland

The Official Paper of PAPA UBU

ROYAL FAMILY DETHRONED oody COUP

PAPA UB VNED
MAKE IONEY
APPOINTS LF 'GREAT FINANCIER'

After extreme disap ntment in nation's lords/counts/ nobility/magistrates/judges/legislators/financiers/wealthy/ peasants/taxpayers/military strategists/neighbors/soldiers/wildlife



Glorious in victory, our Grand Financier cements his reign as he pivots to face the Russian menace. (Played by David Raccio '18)

'Berg Performance of ~~King~~ UBU ROI Ubu stuns

Testament to the cast's skill at physical comedy

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

There aren't many plays in which an audience sees a colander used as a crown and a toilet plunger used as a scepter, but in "Ubu Roi," that is just one of the hilariously bizarre elements of the world of the play. This past weekend, Feb. 21 to 25, the Muhlenberg Theatre and Dance Mainstage delighted audiences for six performances with director Francine Roussel's production of this show, written originally in French by Alfred Jarry and translated by Rob Melrose.

"Ubu Roi" takes inspiration from Shakespeare's Hamlet and Macbeth both in story and in language, as the characters of Mother and Father Ubu work with Captain Bordure to gain control and crown Father Ubu king of Poland. The play begins in a rather absurd and nonsensical manner at first, but as the play progresses, Father Ubu becomes hungry with power, murdering anyone who works against him. As the plot thickens, the events of the play become more serious, but they are still filled with hilarious moments.

The cast was led by Gabrielle Adamo '18 as Mother Ubu and David Raccio '18 as Father Ubu, who began the play with a scene full of fantastically executed outrageous humor and excellent chemistry. Their opening scene immediately pulled the audience to the absurd atmosphere of "Ubu Roi." Adamo and Raccio acted with each other extremely well; both of them were unafraid to be outrageous and absurd, which helped establish their characters and the tone of the performance. Each actor was superb, but some of the highlights included Caden Fraser '20 as the meek King Wenceslas, who had impressive physicality and comedic timing, and Evan Plaza '19 as the revolutionary Bougrelas, whose delivery and stage presence helped him completely embody his character.

> "The scenic and lighting design, done by Curtis Dretsch, director of design & technical theatre, added to the almost barbaric nature of the characters through the imitation of stone in the design of the cubes that made up the set. "

One element of "Ubu Roi" that was particularly impressive was that, except for Adamo and Raccio, every actor played multiple roles in the production. Mike Poyntz '18 was one of these actors, playing Captain Bordure, Second Horse, The Bear, The Commandant and several ensemble roles. He spoke about the process of playing more than one character in the show and preparing to accomplish such a task, explaining that "it was definitely difficult for the ensemble to play different roles throughout the show." Poyntz also added that "focusing on the physicality of the characters was a priority."

The performances of the cast members of the ensemble were particularly effective. Each of the actors did an excellent job of portraying each of their ensemble roles and distinguishing them from each other. The energy of every member of the ensemble was impeccable, and the group kept up its energy and enthusiasm during both the exaggerated moments of humor and the action-heavy fight scenes. The rehearsals for "Ubu Roi" seemed to explore this hilarious and outrageous atmosphere. As Adamo explains: "Francine really encouraged us to be bold and make strong choices, and that's how we found a lot of the comedic moments in the show."

The ensemble stood out to audience members as well, with Cate Esposito '21 praising the actors for "moving together in harmony, and coming together as a perfect ensemble." The performances by the ensemble were enhanced even further by Michael Chin's fight choreography. It was compelling to watch and added a great rhythm to all

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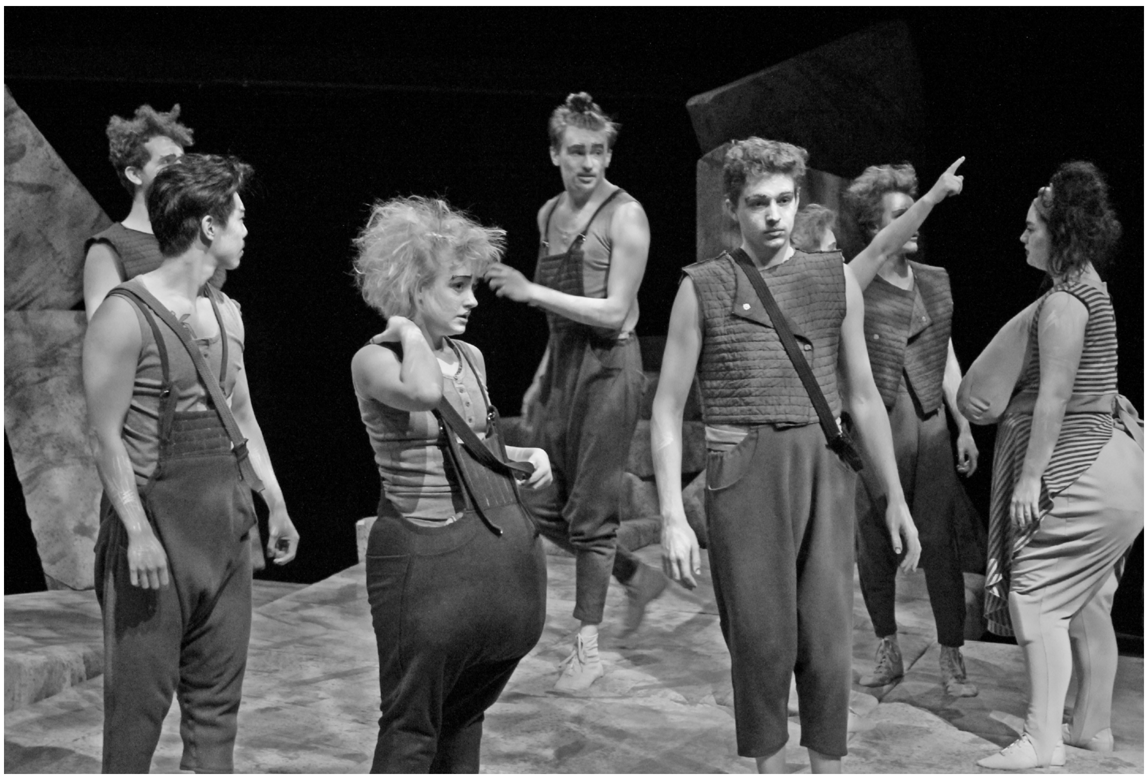


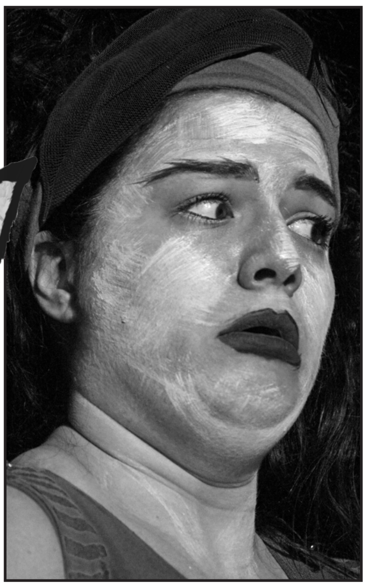
FROM **THE LAST PAGE**

of the fight scenes, as well as often contributing humorous moments to the production.

All of the technical elements of the production were also excellent. The scenic and lighting design, done by Curtis Dretsch, director of design & technical theatre, added to the almost barbaric nature of the characters through the imitation of stone in the design of the cubes that made up the set. The narrative was not hindered by the lack of set changes. The show's easy flow existed both because elements of the locations of several scenes were incorporated into the set and emphasized only when necessary, such as the ropes on the ship and the mouth of the cave, and because each location was displayed on a sign before each scene by Jacob Wahba '20. Furthermore, Dretsch's lighting design used primarily earthy colors, but during the major battle at the end of the play, the lights switched to bright primary colors that lined up with the squares on the floor of the set, creating the appearance of a checkerboard. This was a unique quality that added to the chaos of the battle scene.

Although "Ubu Roi" is absurd in nature, many of the messages in the play have a surprising amount of relevance to today's world and political climate. Adamo described how "'Ubu Roi' starts conversations about the current political climate we are in without making overt statements about people in power. Instead, it shows people of all political affiliations the destruction that happens when we let people like Mama Ubu and Papa Ubu step into positions of power." "Ubu Roi" mixes comedy and absurdism with a surprisingly poignant political statement to make an experience that all audience members can enjoy.

it's worse than you think.



COLE GEISSLER/THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Mama and Papa Ubu use the stage as their playground for unsettling antics that might just mean a bit more than they let on.

Additionally, despite suffering a concussion, Sophia Happonen '21 was still included in the show as the Voice of The Shadow and in the final number for the show. Poyntz said that "all of the cast loves her so much, and we were all very upset that she couldn't be up there in the scenes with us." Happonen's appearances in the show reflect not only her dedication, but also the bond between the members of the cast.

Muhlenberg's production of "Ubu Roi" was full of outstanding performances and technical elements that kept audience members engaged and entertained throughout. Viewers at each of the performances enjoyed the show, even, as Jillian Edmundson '21 added, wishing they "had an opportunity to see it again."

As Poyntz described, "Ubu Roi" is "funny, thought-provoking, and disgusting. It's relevant and unlike any play you'll ever see." He couldn't be more correct. Every element of the production blended together fantastically well to create a show that will certainly be one to remember.

A sketch in time:

An exclusive look into the artwork of Greer Hardy

BY LAUREN D. MAZUR
ARTS & CULTURE

Lights, colors, sounds and textures; descriptions such as these are often used to refer to various forms of art. Art can be an object, a narrative, a life's work or even a major of study. This week, I had the pleasure to ask a graduating Art major at Muhlenberg, Greer Hardy '18, some questions. What does it mean to be an art major on this campus? What sort of requirements are needed to graduate? Such questions and more are answered brilliantly by Hardy below.

Who are you?

My name is Greer Hardy. I'm currently a senior with a double major in Art Studio and Media & Communications. My concentration for Studio Art is drawing. I've always loved drawing and have taken drawing classes for the past eight years of my life. There's something very therapeutic for me when it comes to drawing. I chose it as my concentration because it was something I knew I was good at but still was seeking to learn [about] and improve.

What kinds of art do you like to create? Why?

I am strictly into physical media compared to digital media. I love drawing portraiture and the human body. Drawing people is definitely my strongest suit but I love painting as well as working with color. I have a few paintings that focus on color blending, which is really fun to do and often very challenging. My favorite is here with me at school on a wood panel I found during the reconstruction of my kitchen last winter. Right now I'm working on a series of several six-foot-tall pieces featuring mixed media (charcoal, ink, and pastels). I work with line a lot in my artwork and like to build on layers of different media such as charcoal, paint, etc.

What does being a Studio Art Major mean at Muhlenberg?

To me, being an art major was never out of the question. I wanted a school that could offer me the opportunity to double major in art as well as another discipline. When I started at Muhlenberg, I bounced around from history to psych, finally landing on Media & Communication as a second major. Art always stayed constant for me compared to other disciplines. There aren't many Studio Art majors here so I am proud to be part of such a small department. Last semester in my Media & Communication CUE I had the opportunity to start the Muhlenberg Art Instagram (@muhlenbergart), which has received a lot of positive feedback. I update it constantly to inform students about shows and gallery talks. I wanted to leave my mark on the Art department somehow and this was the way I chose to do so. Art has been a huge part of my life since I was a child and I wanted to be able to study it in college. I come from a big family of artists and musicians so my immediate family was always very supportive of my desire to study art.

Do you have a particular piece or memory of making a piece that you would like to share?

There was a piece I made my freshman year in my dorm one weekend night that had been an idea in the back of my head for a while. It was mixed media with ink and acrylic paint. This was my first experiment with mixed media and using color and line and actually inspired my current work. I remember feeling elated after working on it because it was always an idea of mine. It's currently hung up in my house in Connecticut.

Would you like to leave some advice or suggestions for future Studio Art Majors/Minors?

Never give up. I know that's corny but the moment you stop creating and working on your art is the moment you stop being in touch with your artist self. Everyone has those days/weeks/months where it seems impossible to create anything new and you lose your drive, but those are the days/weeks/months where you need to focus on pushing through this period. It was during that period that I found the idea for my newest series that will be displayed in the Martin Art Gallery. I know from experience that it's not always easy to push through, but it can be done. Every artist goes through this; even though I know what I'm doing with my latest series it can get hard to make the next step. It's always a risk. But you can't be afraid of these risks because they are what's going to get you out of your bubble.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS&EDITORIALS

Where will you be when gun control bites the bullet?

After nearly 300 students gathered on the College Green on Wed., Feb. 22 as part of a nation-wide walk-out against gun violence, there was talk of gathering a bus to take ‘Berg students down to the March for Our Lives campaign in Washington.

Not much younger than the inhabitants of our own dorms, the 16-to-18-year-old student leaders of the march and survivors of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting have come under scrutiny for being just that — students.

“Florida kids will march on Washington to shame adult politicians,” bellowed Newsweek’s headline on the event. Bill O’Reilly, the host of “No Spin News,” tweeted that “The big question is: should the media be promoting opinions by teenagers who are in an emotional state and facing extreme peer pressure in some cases?” Trolls across the internet have called these teenagers “crisis actors” and posted videos “discrediting” them. Google and YouTube have been doing their best to remove any such content, according to a New York Times article, where the platforms stated that the videos violate their recently altered anti-harassment and anti-bullying policy.

Historically speaking, though, students have led the nation in civil rights protests. Some of the largest milestones in the civil rights movements of the fifties were achieved by NAACP Youth group’s protests, including the Little Rock Nine and the integrations of schools and boycotts that pressured shop owners into creating equal job opportunities for black workers. One of the most documented student protests in the United States dates back to 1924, when black students at Fisk University walked out in protest against discriminatory disciplinary policies. Their actions caused the resignation of their college president.

Even here at Muhlenberg, students gathered in protest in response to Trump’s travel restrictions in 2017, and the 2014 acquittal of Darren Wilson, the officer who shot Michael Brown. In 2015, students fought a restrictive protest policy by, ironically, protesting. They plastered up copies of the lengthy forms filled out with the names of famous protests, including the Boston Tea Party, Stonewall Riots, Martin Luther’s 95 theses and more.

March for Our Lives’ greatest strength is its student involvement. And students have made history before and will make it again.

“We are going to be the kids that you read about in textbooks,” said Emma González, a senior at Parkland, at a gun control rally, “not because we are going to be another statistic about mass shootings in America but because … we are going to be the last mass shooting.”

About 13 percent of our student population at ‘Berg participated in the walkout. Those who came shared strong opinions, be it on gun control, on representations of mental health or our desensitization to these tragedies. Muhlenberg, through Dean Robert Springall, tweeted its support of incoming ‘Berg students’ efforts, and you can read more about this on page four.

There are plenty of ways to get active. Satellite marches are happening everywhere — on the same day as the Washington march, others are planned for Philadelphia and Lancaster. Or, for those who prefer to stay at home, calling representatives is always an option. Pennsylvania’s current senators are Robert Casey and Pat Toomey. Charlie Dent is our District’s House representative, and he has announced his retirement; midterm elections for his seat in the House of Representatives (among many others nationwide) will be on Nov. 6.

Now’s our chance to make history — let’s make sure Muhlenberg is on the right side of it.

From the Editorial Board of The Muhlenberg Weekly

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

How I found my voice

By Val Weisler
Senior Staff Writer

The rainbow flag in my dining room makes me giddy, even when I am cranky before my morning class on a Monday. I live in the Pride House with two of my friends. We hold events for the LGBTQ student community and work with Students For Queer Advocacy to provide a safe space for students. Our house is like a Where’s Waldo book, queer edition. How many rainbow flags can you find? Did you spot our feminist bath mat with the faces of Michelle Obama and Ruth Bader Ginsburg? Did you take a look at our sign about destroying the patriarchy? While tapestries and coffee table books decorate other houses, constant reminders of the validity of our identities decorate ours — and the feeling of giddiness never fails to come over me each morning as I sip my coffee and take in the inclusive beauty of the place I am lucky enough to live. I feel sixteen-year-old Val jumping up and down in awe. I hear her voice asking, “We really get to live here? This is our home?”

When I came out at sixteen, I was absolutely terrified. I posted on Facebook with shaking fingers and watched as likes, comments and calls came in. There was a feeling of relief coupled with a feeling of tension. The idea that I would no longer have to hide who I am was one I had been waiting for since I asked my mom if there was a country where I could marry my friend Rachel in preschool.

But then there was the tension; no one else was publically out at my high school.

We had only gotten a Gay Straight Alliance a few years ago. I had been bullied before and I didn’t want to be bullied again again. For the first few weeks, I got called f*ggot and would wear my gym clothes to school because the girls would spread rumors that I was checking them out if I dared change in the locker room. I felt helpless and exhausted.

I googled “what to do after you come out” and the phone number for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) popped up. I called and an old woman answered. I explained my situation and she directed me to Vinnie Pompei, the Director of HRC’s Youth Well-Being Project. He told me he was starting a youth ambassador program and asked if I wanted to be a part of it. I immediately said yes and a few months later, I was attending my first HRC Time To Thrive Conference as an ambassador.

Growing up in a dominantly straight world, I was like a kid in a candy store — surrounded by other queer youth, educators and influencers who were all there for the sole reason of making sure LGBTQ youth could not only feel safe in school, but thrive. For the past four years, that same weekend in February each time, I would find myself at Time To Thrive again. It’s acted as a marker for how my queer identity had been supported or suffered and how I had grown as an intersectional advocate.

Two weekends ago, I attended my last Time To Thrive as an ambassador in Orlando, Florida. The end to my term is very bittersweet: HRC took me in when I was a lone wolf at my high school, struggling to sustain the love for my sexual orientation in a space where the majority would tell me I was too young, too gay, too much.

It provided me with a community of other queer youth hailing from all over the United States. I spoke with Jazz Jennings about the action we could take to make sure transgender youth like herself could use the bathroom that matches their identity at school. I listened to Weston Alexander as he told me how he was put in the foster-care system after his parents threw him out for being gay and discussed how to put platforms in place so other queer, displaced youth could be put in homes where they would be given the love they deserve. I chatted with Zoey Luna about the struggles of Latinx queer youth and the importance to fight for LGBTQ dreamers to sustain their DACA status.

It also felt extremely full-circle to be at this conference full of empowered educators and youth after my self-designed major of Education Advocacy was approved this week (cue my happy dance). HRC’s environment of activism pushed me to work with professors here at Muhlenberg to design this major and educate myself on the variety of issues our country’s youth are facing that interfere with their ability to feel safe and supported in schools.

Especially in the spring semester with the pressure of scoring a resume-worthy summer internship looming ahead, it can be easy to forget why we are here. So much emphasis is put on the future: What job will you get? Where will you live? How much will you earn? While these are important questions, they blur our vision all too often. I hadn’t thought about sixteen-year-old Val in awhile, until Time To Thrive this weekend. I had blocked out how much fear I associated with school. But the idea that in studying education advocacy, I am preparing to collaborate with others and fight for the kid that feels isolated and alone today — whether that be because of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, abilities, religion or other — fuels me to keep going.

It’s no secret that the life of academia we are all in can be draining, especially when mixed with maintaining a social life, extracurriculars and navigating the various other factors of being a college student. But as we step into midterm season, I challenge you to think of the first time you realized that what you’re studying was your passion. Could you dance before you could walk? Did you hear the Schoolhouse Rock song “I’m Just A Bill” and know you wanted to be on the steps of the Capitol? Was your school library your safe haven? Did your childhood lemonade stand become a love for business?

Whatever fuels your fire, remembering your roots can remind you why you’re doing it. And it can change your life.

Finding your way through the “jungle curry”

By Michelle Rajan
Contributing Writer

The lack of Indian representation at Muhlenberg was a bit disheartening when I first applied, but the campus’s various other attributes made up for it: a cognitive neuroscience research opportunity, an immense rose garden just a block away, and the chance to host my own radio show. While my parents planned trips up and down the east coast, I would drive my friends to Muhlenberg and give the “Michelle Rajan Tour” of campus every other week. My favorite part of that summer was doing work inside of Seegers, sitting at a booth in GQ.

In November 2017, I applied to Muhlenberg College as an Early Decision applicant — and was accepted two weeks later. It was the only school I applied to.

Despite having only lived here for roughly six months, campus feels more familiar to me than my own hometown — until the dining hall started serving “Indian food.”

After frequenting the dining hall regularly and tasting dishes of various cuisines, one night I noticed the Magellan’s monitor displayed an Indian menu. My eyes trailed down the options, passing over basmati rice and landing on “jungle curry.”

I was confused. After eating Indian food for nineteen years, not once had I ever heard of “jungle curry.”

At first glance, the issue seems trivial. But I’m a neuroscience major; the trivial matters are what most interest me — especially when it comes to minority issues.

It’s not enough to simply include the marginalized — the representation must be accurate as well. According to studies conducted by Tufts University, Disney has used African-American and Latino voices for the “lackeys” in their movies and these portrayals affected children’s behavior towards marginalized groups as they grew up. Jennings Bryant’s research volume, “Media Effects: Advances in Theory & Research,” illustrates how televised portrayals of minorities influence majority group members’ real-world perceptions. The same reference volume states that African Americans are four times more likely to be the suspect in a crime show than the police officer. Our environment, even its subtleties, ultimately shapes our way of thinking, and we’re letting it get the best of us. We’re letting it take root in our dining hall.

The phrase “jungle curry” paints a picture of my country with which I am unfamiliar. It contains a stereotype within its wording, reaffirming the false narrative that India is underdeveloped and impoverished. And as long as this item remains on Magellan’s menu, Muhlenberg perpetuates this depiction.

A friend of mine wrote a complaint on the napkin board that called out the menu item as racist. The dining hall responded and explained that “jungle curry” is not racist — you can find it on Wikipedia as a Thai dish.

But if it’s Thai, then why was it on the Indian menu?

The fact that the dining hall tries to incorporate a variety of cultures emphasizes one of our core values here: while we may be a predominantly white institution, we recognize the presence of all backgrounds. Trying to accurately incorporate all cultures can be a difficult feat for those unfamiliar with them in the first place. You can’t get it right every time, and you’re going to occasionally step on a few toes. But when you step on someone’s toe, you should never justify as to why you did it; you acknowledge it and apologize. The same goes for a mistake in the dining hall.

I commend Muhlenberg for its attempts to be more inclusive; after all, its my love for the school that fuels my criticism. If the dining hall would like to include this dish on the Thai menu, I’d be thrilled.

But I think we should start calling it by its actual name: kaeng pa. And while a quick Google search will also prompt you to say “jungle curry,” keep in mind who actually named it that.

Why the laws surrounding drinking need to change

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

Before we start here, I’m gonna be perfectly honest, so to all the moms and dads reading this you might want to close your little eyes for this next part. I am no stranger to drinking. I understand how this might change the way you see me; you think I’m much braver than you used to for admitting such a thing. But it is the truth. I drink. I’ve got another truth bomb: I’m not gonna apologize for drinking either.

Being someone who drinks, I understand the risks and rewards that go along with it, which is why it is so baffling to me the ways the drinking laws in this country help to enable dangerous drinking habits. We all know someone who has drank too much and it is time we ask the serious question of whether or not there is something we can do.

I know what you all must be thinking, “He’s gonna hit us with the old Shyamalan twist and reveal he was just talking about water this whole time” but that’s not true and I’d thank you not to put words in my mouth. I am not talking about drinking water or juice or any other drink that never hurt anybody before. I’m talking about the hard stuff, the poison we all partake of, the silly stuff that gets us through the day.

I’m talking about milk, baby.

The milk epidemic has gotten out of hand at this point, and Congress refuses to do anything about it. It is absurd to that, by law, once you turn five you are required to drink 3 gallons of milk a day every day for the rest of your life. And I don’t want to hear anybody coming to me saying that we can’t change the law because it’s in the constitution, because the constitution does not reflect the times we live in. Milk was different back in the 1776s, it didn’t have anywhere near as many lactose molecules as it does today. A gallon of milk today would be absolutely unrecognizable to Kevin James Madison, the man who submitted the “Three Gallon Rule” at the first Congressional Congress. I’d even venture to say that modern day milk would most likely scare him.

Despite years of innovation making milk creamier and easier to drink with even more fatty acids, there have been little to no changes in the laws on milk. It seems like almost every day we hear about someone going into their high school and challenging everyone to the gallon challenge, leaving more and more innocent students in the hospital with upset stomachs — not to mention the students who tragically lost their lunch throwing up all the milk. Yet, for some reason, Congress sits on their hands doing nothing. It’s because politicians like Marco “Milk” Rubio and Sarah “Milk” Palin are swimming in the cream-filled pockets of the Milk Rights Association and they do not reflect us. Things may seem hopeless but we, as the voices of a generation, have to power to stand up and make a change. Our votes and our voices matter when they are unified so if you feel that you can’t make a difference, you are wrong. The less people to stand the less impact it has, so please contact your representatives about responsible milk laws and if they do not reflect your beliefs on the place milk has in our country — and in our stomachs — then you must vote them out. This milk should be spilled, and I’m not gonna cry about it. If you want to compliment me on how good that last sentence is, I’m on Facebook.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

Wicked Awesome

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

Despite what people think, comic books consist of more than just superheroes. The innumerable amount of graphic novels, independent comics and offshoots of the big two publishers (DC and Marvel) proves it.

One of my personal favorite comics is the indie title “The Wicked + The Divine.” An ongoing series that started in 2014 and published by Image Comics, it combines mythology, the notion of fame and a dark murder mystery into one thrilling package. With stunning art that seems to jump off the page by Jamie McKelvie and a brilliant plot with twists that never fail to shock by Kieron Gillen, this comic is a must-read.

With most of us growing up reading the “Percy Jackson” series and watching Disney’s “Hercules,” the idea of a new comic inspired by mythology may seem fairly unexciting — especially if you know that “Wonder Woman” has been running for over 75 years. However, “The Wicked + The Divine” takes what you’d expect out of a mythology comic and turns it on its head.

Sure, there’s still the gods and they’re overly dramatic and petty with each other. But they’re also taken out of mythologies from all over the world. Oh, and they range in age from 12 to roughly 25, so melodrama and petty rivalries are heightened.

The premise is that every 90 years some of the gods return to Earth, reincarnated in the bodies of humans, and once they realize their true identity they have two years to be worshipped before they die. The latest incarnation of the Pantheon is worshipped by taking on the role of pop stars, their fan bases becoming their followers and concerts their rituals.

The story follows Laura, a fangirl who befriends Luci (Lucifer) only for things to immediately go south. Luci is accused of murder and before she can profess her innocence, she is killed as well. Laura gets swept up in the infighting — and in-flirting — of the Pantheon as she tries to find Luci’s killer, who can only be another one of the gods.

Even after the original mystery is solved, the plot only continues to build and twist, with shocks that even the best at identifying foreshadowing couldn’t call. If the thrilling plot, intriguing concept and gorgeous art weren’t enough, the wide cast of characters features some of the best representation in any media.

The gods might all live in London, at least in this incarnation, but they’re all different races and sexualities. The main character, Laura, is multiracial and bisexual, seen throughout the series dating both men and women. Another main character, the skeptic reporter Cassandra, is a transwoman. The god Dionysus is openly asexual, one of two well-known ace characters in comics with the other being Jughead Jones from Archie Comics. Finally, of the 12 gods, half are people of color with major roles throughout the series.

The main series, consisting of six volumes, publishes new issues monthly and offers digital downloads. Additionally, there are three special standalone issues featuring other points in history where the gods have existed, as well as other gods who we don’t see in the regular series — not to mention the annual Christmas special that features the main cast in scenes before the series or are otherwise not part of the main action.

As someone who grew up moving mythology, I think that the twists that the authors and artists put on myths in this comic are amazing. It has just the right balance of angsty and romantic subplots mixed with a truly smart and creative story. “The Wicked + The Divine” is truly a must-read for urban fantasy lovers, whether you think you’re into comics or not.

Creating team chemistry

Softball success takes more than skill

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

The Mules Softball program has taken the initiative to become closer off of their field in hopes of generating solid team chemistry to help them win on the diamond.

By Jordy Bonvini and
Matt Riebesell

On Mar. 3 the Muhlenberg women's softball team will board a plane and take off to (hopefully) sunny and warm Kissimmee, Fla. The week-long, annual spring trip slates the Mules to open their season in a double header against Worcester Polytechnic Institute, on Mar. 4. In the days leading up to the trip, the program has spent early mornings and late nights preparing, including weight lifting, conditioning, and practicing in the Life Sports Center.

However, the women on the softball team have made team bonding a focal point of the offseason and have stressed the importance of displaying not only skill, but also team chemistry on the diamond this spring.

Team Captain and second baseman Karissa Astrella '18 explained how skill is not the only important aspect of a team.

"Team chemistry is vital to a team's success," said Astrella. "A team has a better chance to play comfortably and together when you know the person on the left and right of you."

For that reason, buying in to the idea of needing team chemistry was not difficult for the group of women. "The team was already close entering into this year, so all returners are aware of the importance of team bonding," said Astrella.

Astrella's comments also touched on an important aspect of a team: introducing new members.

"The general goal is for individuals to get to know each other more. In the end, it really does help the freshmen join the family, and feel comfortable," said Astrella. "We never want freshmen to feel unincluded on our team: age does not matter, we are all close."

Fellow captain and pitcher Hayley Peterson '18 concurred.

"Our team bonding goals are to initiate the underclassmen into our culture and have them learn our team works the best when we've got each other's backs," said Peterson.

To build team chemistry, the softball program aims to participate in several team-bonding activities every month. "Some people share a meal, go on a hike, or see a movie — whatever you do, the point is to spend undivided time with another teammate and get to know them," explained Peterson. "The full team bonding that we do at least once a month is just such a break from school work and practice that we all look forward to it."

Getting creative with team bonding activities has been a strong suit of the team so far this offseason, as they have thought of many outside-of-the-box ideas to become closer as a unit.

First baseman Paige Setiz '18 mentioned her favorite activity was a trip to an escape room. "In order to be successful on the field we need to trust each other, and by doing these bonding activities we are able to form better trusting relationships with each other." said Seitz. "It truly shows out on the field."

"My favorite team bonding moment is the holiday party that we do each year. Each class puts together a music video to their favorite holiday song, and we showcase them over pizza before winter break," said Peterson. "It is always a riot and such a way to cap off the semester during finals week."

Coach Molly Rathbun has also integrated exercises into the team's practices, a method which Astrella sees as extremely effective. "My favorite specific team bonding are the challenges we do at practice. Coach has team challenges for us that usually involve some type of challenging exercise that can only be completed if the whole team," explained the Mules' sure-handed second basemen. "This type of bonding is difficult, but you are forced to work together under harder conditions."

Rathbun strongly believes team chemistry is a key to a her team's success. She emphasized that "team bonding, for us, focuses on getting to know each other better outside of softball. We want our players to be able to identify with each other in multiple ways, not just because they play on the same team."

"To me there is team building and team bonding. It's not always just about being friends and having fun together; it's more than that," said Rathbun. "Team chemistry is the ability to trust and depend on one another, and being able to work towards a common goal."

These activities date back to as early as the fall, and Peterson and Astrella can see progress. "Our team is tremendously close thanks to all of the team bonding we do. It's easy to tell because even off the field, we choose to spend all of our time together," said Peterson.

The Mules look to their outstanding team chemistry to improve upon a 13-25 mark in 2017 during their 40 game schedule in 2018.

"The team has definitely become closer through this year, which can be seen through the everyday interactions and on the field. If a team is comfortable with each other, that team will stand out no matter what," explained Astrella.

Peterson summed up the importance of the team's efforts well.

"A game like softball has no individual components, no one person can win or lose a game, so each person in the line up and in the dugout needs to know that each girl has the team's best interest at heart," said Peterson. "It all comes natural when the team becomes your second family."

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from **Soccer** page 12

second duties and all that, like game operation and game management. I'm able to meet a lot of different athletes and people."

What set DePaolo from the rest of the coaching staff was how close she was to the players. Joining the team when she was just a year older than some of the players, she found it easy to connect with her players both on and off the field — and the feeling was mutual.

"I think my favorite memory of Tattie is when I would run into her on campus and she'd just stop and talk with you and ask how you were doing," said Sarah Theurer '19. "It's so simple but it meant a lot that she cared about my life outside of the soccer field and not just on it."

Makenzie O'Brien, '19, an outside back, also expressed how she appreciated the connections DePaolo was able to create among players. "To me Tattie was more than just our assistant coach and strength and conditioning trainer, she was a friend," O'Brien explained. "During the spring season, we have a tradition after morning lifts of going to breakfast in the dining hall. It means a lot to me that Tattie cares for her players off the field and out of the weight room. Our morning breakfasts may have seemed small, but became a tradition that helped build a relationship with Tattie on a more personal level."

"It's so simple but it meant a lot that she cared about my life outside of the soccer field and not just on it."

DePaolo also knew what made her players tick. Even if that meant keeping things on the field fun and loose. Muhlenberg goalie, Libby Juliano '20, explained how DePaolo was able to calm her high nerves before a tough contest against top Centennial Conference contender, Johns Hopkins: "Going into the game I was so nervous. Tattie was able to loosen me up and calm me down by cracking her countless jokes and singing so loud to the playlist playing in stadium."

"I want to be a head coach, so this is a really good step for my career path," said DePaolo. "I'm just excited to take on new opportunities, a little bit more coaching administrative type of stuff. I can really just focus on that. Here I was really drawn a bunch of different areas which is great for getting a bunch of different experiences, but now I can focus in on that one."

For Tattie, despite her love for the players and the Muhlenberg community, this is the logical next step, but that doesn't mean her Mules won't miss her. "I am going to miss Tattie not only at games and practice but off the field because she was more than a coach to me," said O'Brien.

"I've met and created some great friends and colleagues and mentors, and I think that's going to be really influential in my life," said DePaolo. "But I'm also very grateful for it."

Additional reporting by Matt Riebesell

Record day at regionals

By Max Shapiro
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg wrestling season came to an end with Dylan Schwartz ‘20 placing sixth at the 2018 NCAA Mideast Regional for the 165 lbs. weight class.

The Mules had more representation at regionals than just Schwartz, however. Austin Sherman ‘20 and Gennaro Cerminara ‘19 also made it to this stage of the tournament, however both lost their respective matches on day two. Sherman was defeated in a nail-biting decision to a Scranton University wrestler he fell to earlier in the season, while Cerminara lost to an opponent from Elizabethtown College.

Schwartz’s performance in Ithaca is the best by a Mule wrestler since regional tournaments were first introduced by the NCAA in 2011. After posting a 2-1 record on the first day of competition, Schwartz began the second day with a decision victory over a Centenary University wrestler. He then dropped both of the next two matches by close decision to finish sixth overall. Schwartz concluded his sophomore campaign with a record of 36-14, just one win short of the school record for most wins in a season set by Bill Holsinger in the 2001 season.

Prior to the second day regionals, all three wrestlers had advanced past the first day of competition, as the team scrapped their way through some tough matchups. Cerminara, along Schwartz, went 2-1, while Sherman finished 1-1 on the day to avoid elimination.

Schwartz started the first day with a close 6-3 defeat against a Merchant Marine wrestler, but rallied in his next match to win by majority decision over a SUNY Oneonta opponent. Schwartz capped his day with a 7-2 decision against an Rochester Institute of Technology adversary. He improved his season win total to 35, the second-most ever by a Mule wrestler in a season.

Cerminara was victorious his opening match by pinning his opponent from Stevens Institute of Technology. He then lost via a pin to the sixth-ranked wrestler from Brockport College. He bounced back however, defeating an opponent from The College of New Jersey with another fall. Cerminara finished the year with 18 pins, bringing him to 35 for his career — tied for the third in school history. His 32 wins this year are also the fourth most ever in a season for a Muhlenberg wrestler.

After receiving a bye in the first round of day one, Sherman lost his first match to a SUNY Oneonta opponent, but he battled back with a decision victory to remain alive in the tournament. The win was his 28th of the season.

“I don’t think we accomplished what we were capable of accomplishing this past weekend at regionals. As a team, we’ve barely scratched the surface of our potential, but we’re slowly climbing and improving every day,” said Sherman. “We’re lucky to have such a talented group of dedicated student athletes who love the sport and want to succeed,” Sherman said about the bittersweet weekend.

With the season now over, the team turns its focus to training for next season. Next season, the team will be without seniors Ben Peck, Jake Gordon and Logan Laughlin, as well as Robert Armus ‘19, who decided to retire because of lingering injuries.

However, the team enjoyed an unexpectedly successful season under first year coach Jason McLean, whose hiring came just days before the beginning of the season. After weeks of uncertainty over the coaching position, McLean brought stability to the squad, and guided the Mules to one of their most successful seasons in recent years. With McLean at the helm moving forward, the Mules have high hopes both individually and for the team next year.

Regardless, the Muhlenberg wrestling program did not let the preseason uncertainty affect their efforts on the mat in the 2017-18 season.

“I didn’t accomplish my goals this weekend — nobody on the team did,” said Sherman, “But the great thing is we have next year and the year after that to continue to improve and chip away until we get to where we want to be.

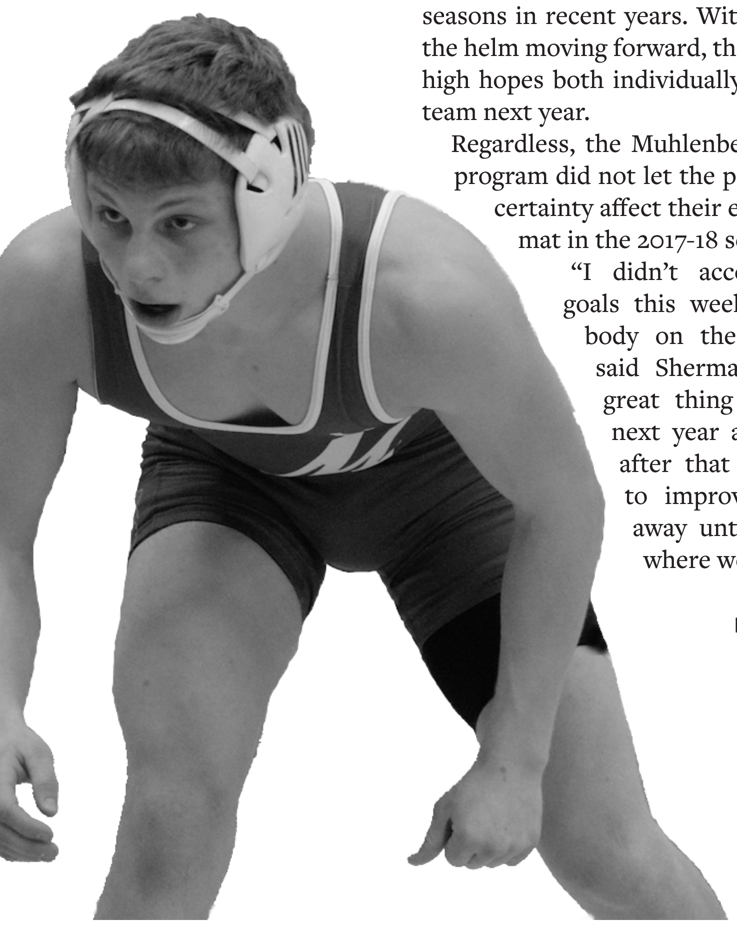

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Austin Sherman ‘20 prepares to grapple his opponent during last week’s NCAA Mideast Regional tournament.

Mules go mad during annual fundraising event

Changes in annual ‘Mule Madness’ fundraising event are a success

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

Feb. 18 marked the conclusion of the 2018 Mule Madness season, a program aimed at collecting funds for Muhlenberg’s athletic programs through a week of competitions and incentivized fundraising. Heather Ennis ‘08, the current senior associate director of annual giving and Kim Stolarik, the leadership gift officer of development, both worked with Mule Madness. “We had a tremendous Mule Madness for 2018 and this year is tracking to be one of the most successful campaigns ever in terms of total dollars and participation,” they said.

The exact profit: $103,562.

This year the competition was tweaked from previous years to try and generate maximum participation from the athletics’ community. The changes were explained by the pair: “New for this year was the introduction of three goals for each team. All teams had a student-athlete participation goal named STEP, a total point goal named UP and a total dollars raised goal named MULES.”

Another change was naming two champions for two different fundraising categories. “This year the ‘Cardinal’ champion was awarded for most participation and the ‘Grey’ champion for highest total dollars raised,” they said. The participatory and monetary crowns were both earned by Men’s Lacrosse, who alone raised over $19,000.

Both changes were to the benefit of Muhlenberg sports programs — achieving goals granted teams the additional donations from “team captains” while teams faced off to push one another to victory. “The goal system allowed for each team to earn additional funding,” said Ennis and Stolarik. “This system also got the competitive juices flowing for each team. It was great to see how excited and fierce the competition became throughout the week. We were encouraged and happy with the new system.”

The “team captains” were a key reason for the success each athletic program achieved. The Mule Madness team captains were not actual players on the team, rather they were comprised of “former alumni athletes or current parents of student-athletes.” Those leading the event were pleased that many donors stepped up to be team captains resulting in many teams having more than one. Some teams had enough captains for each to take responsibility of a certain goal being reached, while other teams had a one captain claim responsibility for all of the goals.

Raising funds is essential in Division III athletics, as individual team budgets do not always cover even the essentials of a team’s necessary equipment. For Mule Madness, the donations could either be designated to a specific team, or athletics as a whole.

“The sponsor donations will be used for each team’s individual fundraising needs such as spring break travel, field enhancements, and video editing software,” explained Ennis and Stolarik.

The DIII Challenge played an important role in the successful fundraiser. “The challenge encompasses different components for both the men’s and women’s teams such as giving among young alumni student-athletes, team GPA, overall student athlete participation and those named on the Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll,” said Ennis and Stolarik. The challenge was supported by Trustee Jerry Galgano ‘80, P‘11, P‘14. According to advancement the overall participation was an element of the event that many teams capitalized on, with 12 achieving one hundred percent overall participation.

Although this year’s Mule Madness was a hit, the Office of Advancement wants to keep the event moving in the right direction. “Currently, we are thrilled with the format of the campaign but there are always areas in which we can improve,” explained Ennis and Stolarik. One of those improvements might be trying to strengthen one of the tweaks made for this year’s competition: more team captains. In their joint statement Stolarik and Ennis expressed that gaining more captains “will only benefit our student athletes.”

The culmination is a strong gesture of how a great amount of alumni, parents, family, and friends of Muhlenberg want to help the athletics community succeed.

The gratitude within the efforts of all donors are quite deserving of a big thank you from all within athletics. The culmination is a strong gesture of how a great amount of alumni, parents, family, and friends of Muhlenberg want to help the athletics community succeed. Ennis and Stolarik agree, saying that “the Athletic Department and Office of Advancement are absolutely thrilled with the outcome.”

“It would not have been possible without the generous support of our alumni, parents, former parents, friends, coaches and student athletes. Our student athletes excel on the field, in the classroom, and in the community. However, they can’t do it without financial support,” said the pair. “That’s why Mule Madness is a great week to bring awareness and education about the College and athletic department.”

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Record day at regionals

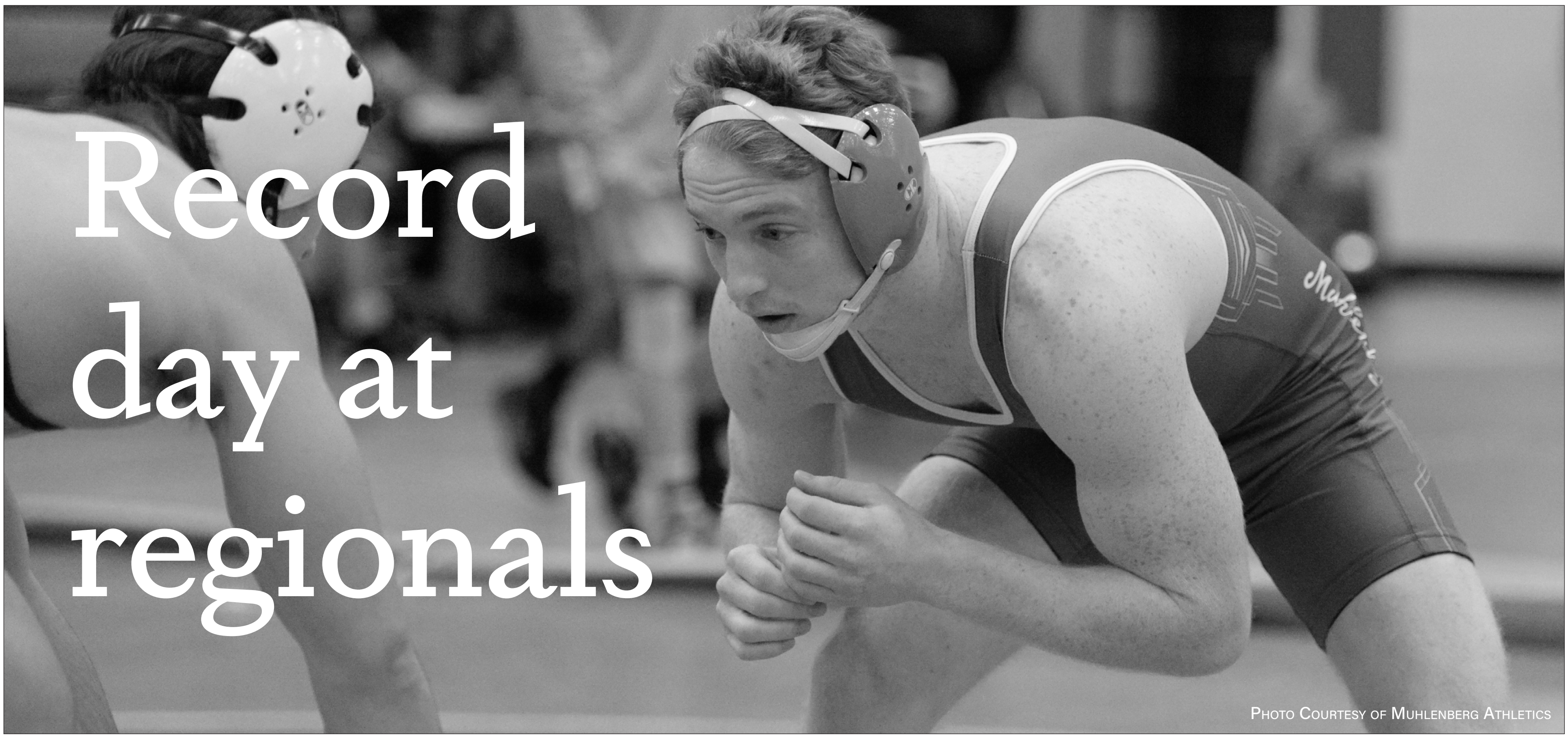

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Three Mule wrestlers have successful performances at NCAA Regionals in Ithaca, New York headlined by a 6th place finish by Dylan Schwartz '20 (pictured above). **Read more on 11**

Tattie DePaolo pursues promotion

Mules assistant women's soccer coach heads to Washington and Lee University

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Tattie DePaolo talks tactics with the Muhlenberg Women's soccer team at halftime of a game at Arcadia University.

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

Fresh after graduating from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and still unsure of exactly what she wanted to do with her degree, Anna-Kate DePaolo went online in search of a job.

She landed on an opening as an assistant women's soccer coach at Muhlenberg College, a small college that she'd barely heard of, forty minutes northwest of her Perkasie, Pa. hometown.

"I just graduated, and I didn't really know what I wanted to do," said DePaolo. "I knew I wanted to work in sports and with people. I did strength and conditioning as an internship in college and wanted to continue that. But I knew I also liked soccer more than the strength side. This was the perfect combination of the two because I was able to do both women's soccer and be a strength and conditioning coach."

Four years later, DePaolo, better known by her nickname Tattie, has become a well-known staple of the Muhlenberg Athletic Department. A member of the strength and conditioning staff and the women's soccer assistant coach, she also spends her time on campus working different sporting events. But following four seasons on the Varsity Field sidelines, DePaolo is leaving Muhlenberg after accepting a full-time assistant coaching position at Washington and Lee University.

"It was really easy to get invested here," said DePaolo. "The community feel and the people that I work with make it really easy to want to get involved in all aspects. And the way the department is set up, it really gives me an opportunity to do that with

see **Soccer** page 10

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Spring Break Special

Baseball
RussMat Central Florida Invitational
Mar. 6 through Mar. 9
Auberndale, FL

Softball
D9 Sunkissed Games
Mar. 4 through Mar. 9
Kissimmee, FL

Men's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg vs *Rhodes*
Thursday, Mar. 8 @ 1:00 PM
Nashville, TN

Women's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg vs *Morisville State*
Monday, Mar. 5 @ 11:00 AM
Hilton Head, SC

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

Goff gone

After 18 years at 'Berg, Corey Goff takes new position in Miami, Fla.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018
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NEWS

A thief, a 19th century book and an FBI arrest. Muhlenberg's brush with crime featured on national TV.

read more on 4

ARTS & CULTURE

Don't miss the first fully staged premiere of theatre professor Holly Cate's *Glory*, a fiercely modern adaptation of Shakespeare's Henry VI tetralogy.

read more on 7

Cole Geissler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

OP/ED

Barrett Ozga takes us through his spring break volunteering for victims of Hurricane Harvey and asks all of us to help those often forgotten after the event.

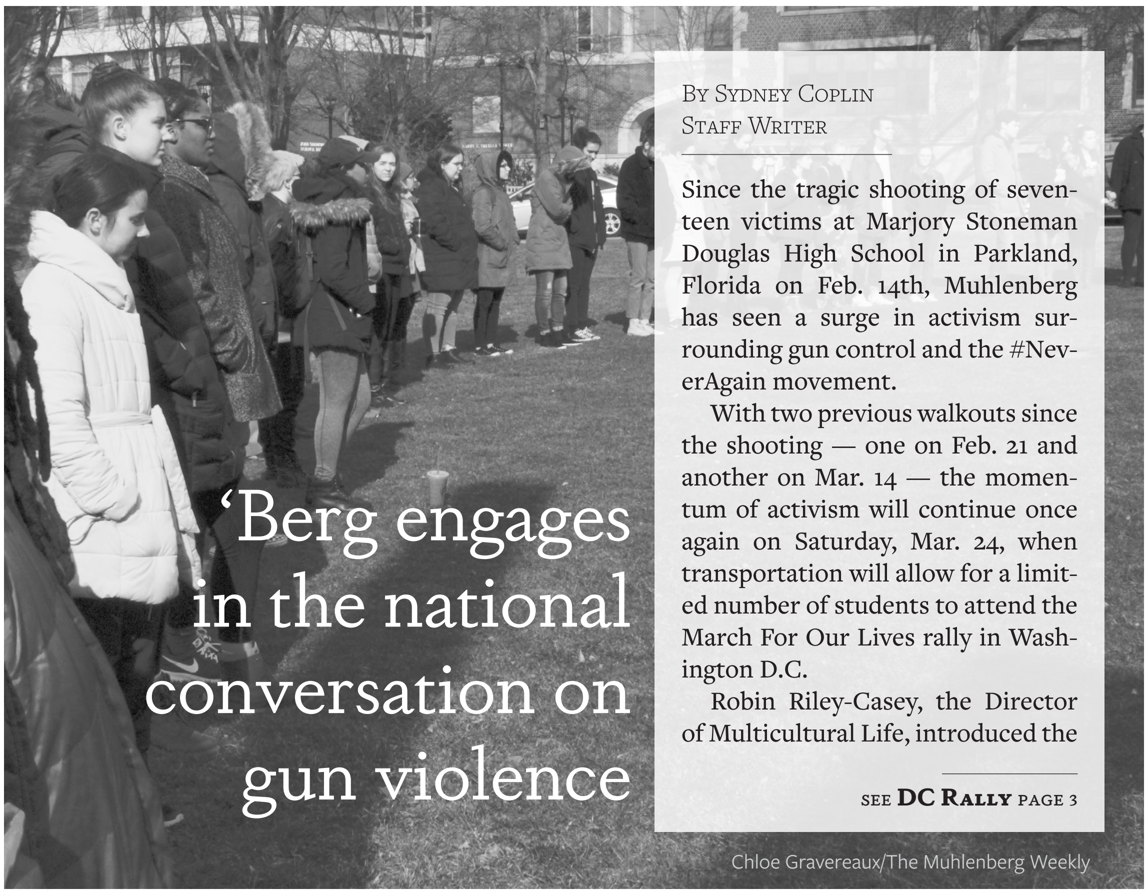
read more on 8

SPORTS

Sophomores Jordan Cimiring and Ashley Polera spearhead an organization aimed at developing relations with younger Lehigh Valley athletes.

read more on 10

March for our lives



Chloe Gravereaux/The Muhlenberg Weekly

'Berg engages in the national conversation on gun violence

By Sydney Coplin
Staff Writer

Since the tragic shooting of seventeen victims at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on Feb. 14th, Muhlenberg has seen a surge in activism surrounding gun control and the #NeverAgain movement.

With two previous walkouts since the shooting — one on Feb. 21 and another on Mar. 14 — the momentum of activism will continue once again on Saturday, Mar. 24, when transportation will allow for a limited number of students to attend the March For Our Lives rally in Washington D.C.

Robin Riley-Casey, the Director of Multicultural Life, introduced the

see **DC Rally** page 3

Commencement honorees announced for 2018

By Gregory Kantor
Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Robert Loeffler '70, an orthopedic surgeon who served with Doctors Without Borders and a Muhlenberg College alumnus, will deliver the commencement address to the Class of 2018 on Friday, May 18, at Muhlenberg's 170th commencement ceremony.

Loeffler will receive an honorary degree, as will Morten Lauridsen, a classical musician and recipient of the National Medal of Arts; Heather McGhee, a public policy advocate; Elissa Montanti, the founder of the Global Medical Relief Fund; and Andrew Young, a civil rights activist, politician, and former aide to Martin Luther King Jr.

Loeffler, who graduated from Muhlenberg with a bachelor's degree in biology, went on to attend Temple Medical School and completed his residency at the University of Colorado Medical Center. In a variety of both medical and educational roles, Loeffler served students and athletes alike through his specialty of sports medicine. He now resides and practices in Key West, Florida.

In his time with Doctors Without Borders, Loeffler responded to several humanitarian relief efforts, including work in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake and for refugees at the Syrian-Jordanian border in the Middle East.

"It did change my outlook on life," said Loeffler, regarding his time in Haiti in an interview with a local Florida Keys-area newspaper. "The value of me over there is so much higher than me over here. I guess it just goes back to why you want to become a doctor."

While Loeffler will deliver the commencement address, all honorary degree recipients will again present lectures to the Muhlenberg community prior to commencement. The topics are not yet known, but will be added to the 2018 Commencement page on the College's website and will be communicated accordingly.

Lauridsen is an acclaimed classical musician and composer who received the National Medal of Arts in 2007 and has been nominated for a Grammy award five times. He has been professor of composition at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music for more than 50 years and received the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers' Life in Music Award in 2016.

For over 15 years, McGhee has been with Demos, a left-leaning think tank that focuses on issues such as social justice, economic inequality and voting rights; she has served as president since March of 2014. McGhee was a contributing advocate to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 and has since served on a variety of civic participation and public policy committees and boards.

Montanti founded the non-partisan Global Medical Relief Fund in 1997 and in the decades since, has helped children — both domestically and internationally — recover medically from the

see **Speaker** page 4

Gun safety on campus

Exploring weapons policies and campo's preparedness

By Chloe Gravereaux
Asst. Managing Editor

Surveillance footage released of police officer Scot Peterson on the day of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School shooting has called into question police responses to an armed intruder at a school. Muhlenberg College Campus Safety, at least, has a plan to combat such a threat, explained Brian Fidati, Director of Campus Safety and Chief of Police.

"Campus Safety takes a four-pronged approach to an armed intruder response: training, education, drills, and exercises," said Fidati. "Training involves hands-on department and inter-agency training, last conducted in August 2017. Education takes place in the form of fitness and wellness classes and presentations to various college departments across campus."

The education of the campus occurs continuously, Fidati added.

"Drills consist of lock-down drills beginning with last academic year and conducted once each semester," said Fidati, "and emergency evacuation drills which are conducted at least once each semester in every residential space. Exercises are conducted once a year in the form of tabletop exercises involving key college administrators and employees, along with a variety of outside agencies, and are designed to test the College's emergency plan."

> **"Data shows us that the Muhlenberg College campus and surrounding area remains a safe location as it pertains to 'gun violence.'"**

Additionally, the crisis response guidelines on the Campus Safety web page provides suggested responses to keep students safe should they find themselves in an armed intruder situation. The page recommends that students call campus safety,

see **Preparedness** page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers.Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition.However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

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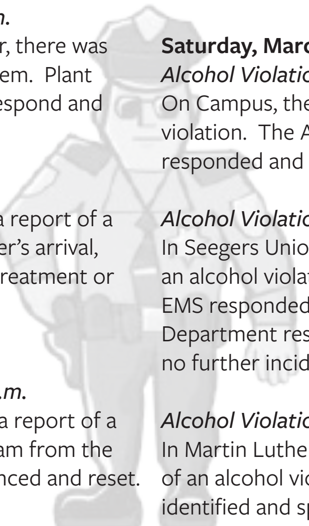
We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety



Monday, March 12

Harrassment – 1:17 a.m.
In Robertson Hall, there was a report of harassment by communication. The individuals were spoken to, and Residential Services was notified.

Disabled Vehicle - 7:00 p.m.
At the East Hall archway, there was a report to jumpstart a vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer could not get the vehicle started, and AAA was notified to respond.

Tuesday, March 13

Carpentry Problem - 1:55 a.m.
In Robertson Hall, Third Floor, there was a report of a carpentry problem. Plant Operations was notified to respond and make the repair.

Sick Student - 8:51 p.m.
In the Mail Room, there was a report of a sick student. Upon the Officer's arrival, the student refused further treatment or transport.

Wednesday, March 14

Fire Alarm Sounding - 1:44 a.m.
In Robertson Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from steam from the shower. The system was silenced and reset.

Injured Student - 12:35 p.m.
In the Brown Hall Dance Studio, there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Harassment - 8:30 p.m.
At the sorority houses, there was a report of harassment. The individuals were identified and spoken to, and there has been no further incident at this time.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 9:21 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm from burnt food. The system was silenced and reset.

Friday, March 16

Alcohol Violation - 3:45 a.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. Allentown Police Department also responded and cited a student for Underage Drinking. Allentown EMS responded and transported a student to the hospital.

Theft - 2:45 p.m.
In Life Sports Center, there was a report of a theft of a cell phone. The investigation is to continue.

Saturday, March 17

Alcohol Violation - 3:04 p.m.
On Campus, there was a report of an alcohol violation. The Allentown Police Department responded and arrested a student.

Alcohol Violation - 4:13 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of an alcohol violation. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the Allentown Police Department responded as well. There was no further incident.

Alcohol Violation - 5:44 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. The individual was identified and spoken to, and there was no further incident.

Sunday, March 18

Fire Alarm Sounding - 3:15 a.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding as a result of a discharged fire extinguisher. The Allentown Fire Department also responded. Plant Operations was notified to clean the area, and the investigation is to continue.

Check the Welfare - 7:09 a.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report to locate a student. Contact was made, and there was no further incident.

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FROM **PREPAREDNESS** PAGE 1

do their best to either calmly distance themselves from the scene, barricade themselves in a room away from windows until an "all clear" is given in a recognizable voice, or, in a hostage situation, to remain seated and if "hiding or flight is impossible, attempt to negotiate with the individual."

In the event of an armed intruder situation, Campus Safety gathers basic information, notifies the Allentown Police dispatch center, and sends an officer to the scene, explained Fidati.

"The first responding officer is trained to immediately locate and confront the armed intruder, then take the necessary measures to prevent that intruder from causing any further harm to others," said Fidati. "Other responding officers will coordinate their response based on the first officer's location and situational assessment. Necessary measures may ultimately involve the use of the officers' weapons to stop the action of the armed intruder."

Students would be notified in the event of an armed intruder from communications, as opposed to campus safety.

Additionally, only law enforcement and campus safety officers are allowed to carry weapons on campus, as per the College's Firearms and Other Weapons Policy, and Section 8.5 of the staff handbook. The first warns students against confiscation and disciplinary action for possession of "firearms, ammunition, air guns (bb/pellet), any bombs, grenade, blackjack, metal, knuckles, spring type weapons, slingshots, martial arts weaponry, knives, swords, switchblades daggers, darts, dartboards, paintball guns, simulated weapons altered to appear as an actual firearm, stun guns, stun batons, taser or any other electronic or electric weapon, whips, or other implementation of serious bodily injury which serve no common lawful purpose" on campus or college-owned properties.

Items that have a common lawful purpose, explained Fidati, are items which have a practical, everyday use as well as a potential to become a weapon. A knife, for example, can be used to cut food, which is its "common lawful purpose."

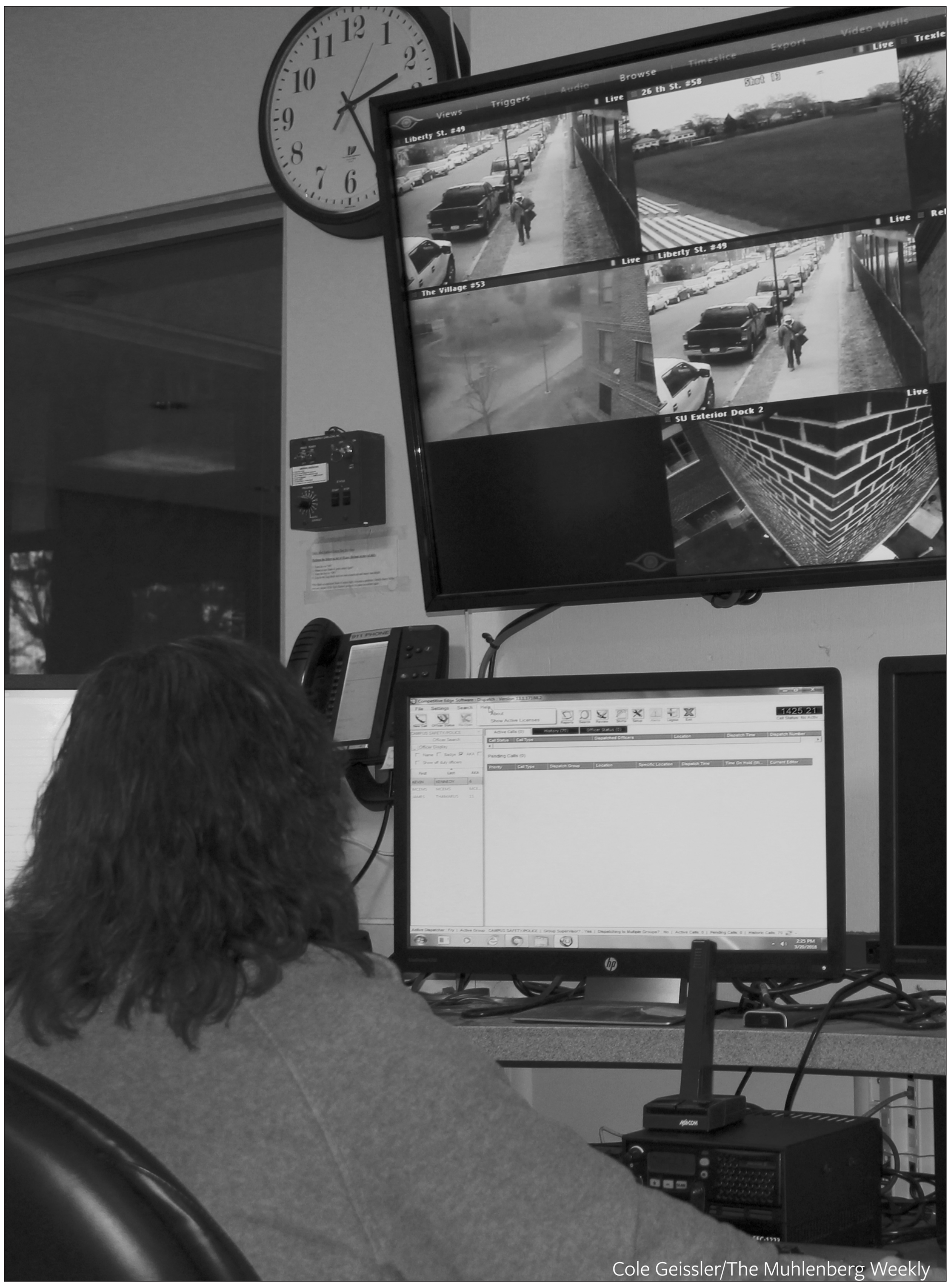
Pepper spray, however, is not included in the list of items. The point of pepper spray, Fidati explained, is for defense. Additionally, pepper spray is sold in convenience stores — including the 'Berg Bookshop.

According to the College's annual safety report, only 4 of the 599 possession crimes reported between 2014 and 2016 dealt with firearms. The rest were liquor and drug violations, which made up the bulk of reported incidents.

The two most prominent weapons-related incidents in recent memory include the robbery in Benfer on Oct. 24, 2017, where two unidentified individuals took money at gunpoint from students and ran. In 2011, there was a robbery at an off-campus, but student-occupied residency.

"While one armed robbery on campus and another one off campus in the past seven years are two too many, data shows us that the Muhlenberg College campus and surrounding area remains a safe location as it pertains to 'gun violence.'" said Fidati.

As always, report suspicious incidents to Campus Safety at 484-664-3110 or dial 3110 on any campus phone.



Cole Geissler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Dispatcher Patti Fry keeps an eye on the Campus Safety monitor board in their Prosser office.

FROM **DC RALLY** PAGE 1

idea to have buses take students to the march almost immediately after the Parkland shooting happened: "If the students wanted to do it, I would do everything that I could to advocate for it."

After gaining support from Multicultural Life organizations such as Students for Queer Advocacy (SQUAD) and Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition (MTAC), Riley-Casey began working with student leaders from these two groups in order to make the idea of a trip to the march a reality. The Dean of Students Office will provide additional financial support for the upcoming trip to the march.

"Most of my involvement with the planning of the transportation to the march has been outreach to various Facebook-based Muhlenberg activist groups that have formed independently from Multiculti over the past four years," said Paige Harrington '18, one of the main student leaders. "I created the Facebook event for the march as well as the Google form for registration."

Students interested in attending the march were required to fill out the Google form in order to obtain a spot on one of the two buses; however, registration is now closed.

Another student leader that was heavily involved in the planning of previous walkouts and the upcoming march was Alexa Urbach '18, the current president of both SQUAD and MTAC.

"There have always been activists on this campus, people doing amazing things through different clubs, organizations, talking with professors, administrators."

"At a lot of our meetings we don't just focus on queer issues," said Urbach. "It was something in the news we knew we had to address. With all of the national walkouts, we knew we had to plan one."

"When I first got here in 2009, before I even got here, they [students] had planned to go to the inauguration [of former President Barack Obama]," Riley-Casey said, pointing out how activism has been prominent on Muhlenberg's campus in recent years. Whereas only two buses were available for this year's trip to D.C, she reflected that "at that time, they had I believe seven buses."

Besides the inauguration, there was also transportation to last year's Women's March. Kieva Mark '20, another student activist, also recognizes the presence of activism embedded in Berg's culture. "There have always been activists on this campus, people doing amazing things through different clubs, organizations, talking with professors, administrators."

Mark has also noticed a positive change, "I was talking to Paige and they were saying that they hadn't seen a protest of this scale at Muhlenberg … it's definitely increased since Parkland."

"I think what makes it [attending the march] so significant is students. It's students, It's not about adult folks that are 25 and older, it is about young people knowing that they have power to create change in a world they want to live in,"

Despite seeing a boost in activism for gun control, Urbach acknowledges that change takes time — which is why many people involved in activism on campus see the importance of attending the upcoming March For Our Lives.

"I think what makes it [attending the march] so significant is students. It's students, It's not about adult folks that are 25 and older, it is about young people knowing that they have power to create change in a world they want to live in," said Riley-Casey. "It is not about gun control necessarily, it is about actually activating their voices to say that 'we will be the ones who will create the spaces that we will live in.'"

Urbach had a similar view as Riley-Casey: "I think that the experience of being surrounded by people who have similar opinions and are outspoken and are very dedicated to that cause … even if you feel that you are not the most invested. It is inspiring."

One potential issue with attending a march, especially one at the magnitude of March for Our Lives, is hesitation and fear. "It is nerve-wracking and scary, but if you are passionate enough about something, that takes over to some extent," explained Mark, "that has definitely gotten me involved in gun control."

"I think that if people are afraid, pay attention to that because the world can be a scary place," Riley-Casey adds. "I think that knowing that there are so many people that are going to be there in solidarity with one another, that says power in coming together."

It is also important to realize that attending a march is not the only way to participate in activism. "You don't have to go to a march to be knowledgeable about issues," says Allison Gulati, Dean of Students. She encourages students to reach out to the Office of Community Engagement to discover ways to get involved right here in Allentown.

"Depending on where students' interests lie, we can connect them to community organizations/movements that might fit," said Beth Halpern, Director of Community Engagement, "For example, we have connected students with interest in reproductive rights to Planned Parenthood and the Allentown Women's Center. Students with interest in food insecurity have connected with Second Harvest Food Bank."

For more information on how to get involved in activism, or if you are interested in attending local marches in and around the Lehigh Valley, you can contact the Office of Multicultural Life.

Overall, Mark summarizes activism into three main aspects: "Know your history. Know where your ideas and your passion are coming from. Don't let go of your anger."

Mysteries at the Museum: a book thief and the travel channel

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

Arrests made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation are not exactly common in the Lehigh Valley. For the arrest to be made with the help of a pair of sharp-eyed Muhlenberg College librarians is just as unlikely — and yet that is exactly what happened in 1981.

Muhlenberg gained some national attention on Thursday, Mar. 16 when it was featured on the Travel Channel show "Mysteries at the Museum." Muhlenberg caught the show's attention, which highlights historical events through artifacts, due to an article written this summer by Susan Falciani Maldonado, Trexler Library's Special Collections and Archives Librarian.

In the 1980s, a book thief by the name of James Shinn was targeting college and university libraries for the rare and valuable books he could steal and resell. While on Muhlenberg's campus in 1981, Shinn attempted to steal "Das malerische und romantische," a German book of folk tales and fairy tales, from the then-Haas Library. As the story goes, it was only thanks to the teamwork of two Muhlenberg librarians that Shinn was caught and arrested by the FBI. As a result, the book remains a part of the College's rare books collection and was featured on the show as a result.

The show also highlighted the College's collection of cuneiform tablets, an illuminated edition of William Blake's "Night Thoughts" and the first edition of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.

"The 'Mysteries at the Museum' segment highlights how a good story is worth telling, regardless of how old it may be or how long ago it happened," said Tina Hertel, Trexler Library Director. "Libraries are all about good stories, whether it be science fiction or scientific discoveries, mysteries or historical accounts."

"Susan pulled this story from a page in Muhlenberg College's history and wrote a new story on it that appeared in 'Atlas Obscura,'" Hertel explained, "because she was able to retell this story so well, 'Mysteries at the Museum' decided to pick it up and create this segment — retelling this story yet another way."

"They actively comb for news stories or articles," Falciani Maldonado explained. "The producer, Nick Adrian, contacted us because he read my article."

Falciani Maldonado explained that the program was interested in the physical book itself, as "the book was to be the heart of the story."

When she was first contacted by Adrian he asked about the 19th century book before again contacting her about coming to film. Following the finalization of details between 'Berg and the show, Falciani Maldonado was informed that the book and herself would indeed be featured and that a production crew was scheduled to come on Sept. 20.

The show tells the story — in this case Schinn's capture — surrounding an artifact with the help of actors, narration and facts provided by the librarian or curator.

"[Filming] was somewhat nerve wracking. It's not the first time that I'd ever been on camera but it was certainly the longest amount of time," Falciani Maldonado explained. "To film the short segments [featured on the show] I was in with them almost an hour."

Falciani Maldonado also feels that this was good exposure for the College.

"Muhlenberg has amazing articles and collections," said Falciani Maldonado. "This story about catching a book thief here on our campus adds to the story of how interesting our holdings are."

Falciani Maldonado hopes that "Mysteries at the Museum" will spark students' interest in history here on campus. It might already be doing just that, as Adrian said that the episode Muhlenberg featured in is one of the most-watched episodes in three years.

"Librarians not only have more good stories to tell, but we're here to help others tell their stories, too," said Hertel. "Who knows what other hidden treasures can be discovered in the college archives or the Trexler Library collection?"

Mules on the map

By Ali Watson
Senior Staff Writer

It might be hard to believe — especially with the recent weather — but just a couple of weeks ago 'Berg students were in the midst of spring break. From traveling abroad to working hard, here are some of the fun things Mules did over Spring Break 2018.

Meredith Jones '19 travelled to Huntsville, Alabama from Saturday March 3 to March 10 with Habitat for Humanity. The first two days Jones and the rest of the team rehabilitated a home, which was given back to Habitat after a family no longer needed it. The weather was unfortunately not good for the latter part of the week, and the team instead loaded up "an entire home's" worth of walls onto the back of trucks and then delivered "it to the sites and unloaded them." Some highlights of the trip included a visit to the US Space and Rocket Museum and a trip to an Escape the Room. Jones also 10/10 recommends the Cajun food.

Other students also went to New Orleans with the St. Bernard Project. Nate Wiggley '20, along with about a half of a dozen students, were tasked with rebuilding a house that was damaged in a tornado last year. The group worked for 30 hours over the course of the week to put up drywall, which he described as "tedious but fun." The group also enjoyed some of the nightlife of the city, including New Orleans' famous French Quarter.

Three Public Health students also organized a trip to Houston Texas to assist in the rehabilitation effort in the city in the wake of the devastating Hurricane a few months ago. Lily Stange '20, loved the trip and said it helped her to better understand the effects of the disaster on the community.

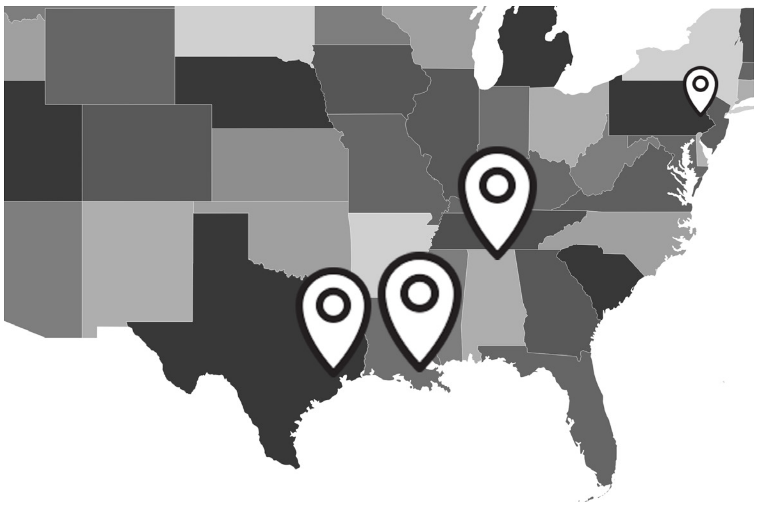
"You begin to understand the devastation," Stange continued. "Hearing different narratives allows you to understand the impacts of the event itself."

Stange says she would absolutely go back, and that the "inside of the infrastructure will deconstruct over time." Furthermore, people are largely "unaware of the severity of issues" being faced in the wake of the hurricane; but, more importantly they are unaware of "the impact their contribution can make." Barrett Ozga '21, who also attended this trip, offers his thoughts in an opinion piece on page nine.

While those students all spent their week off participating in some of Muhlenberg's own Alternative Spring Breaks, other students chose to spend time with family they rarely see during the school year.

Jouman Barakat '20, travelled to her family home to Amman, Jordan. Barakat spent some time at the Dead Sea and got a tan and a massage, which she recommends "to everyone that breathes." While the jet lag was a little bit of an adjustment, Barakat is no stranger to the long flight and still enjoyed eating Arab food as well as meeting up with friends from home. Barakat would "103924875/10" recommend travelling to Amman.

Another senior, Kat Ambroze '18, travelled across the pond to Copenhagen, Denmark, where she had lived during her study abroad experience. She loved going back to her old stomping ground with fellow 'Berg senior Emily Aita '18.



Alternate spring break trips took Meredith Jones '19 to Huntsville, Ala. with Habitat for Humanity, Nate Wiggley '20 to New Orleans, La. with the St. Bernard Project and Lily Stange '20 went to Houston, Texas as part of a hurricane relief effort.

Following the in footsteps of thousands of college students and pop cultural references before them, many students sought warmer weather and sand between their toes.

Jessica Cunanan '18, went to sunshine state Florida and "did a lot of relaxing" by the beach and the pool. Cunanan seemingly had the perfect mixture of reading and shopping: "I really enjoyed visiting new beaches, especially ones with blue waters" something she is "not used to being from New Jersey." Cunanan is also a self identifying "foodie" and "loved discovering wonderful restaurants and trying delicious new foods." Now that she is back at 'Berg, Cunanan is really missing the warm weather.

But the bitter Lehigh Valley winter winds didn't bother some students, who traveled further north to the still snow-covered Canada.

Justin Axlerod '20 traveled with some other friends from to Montreal, hoping to "experience a new culture and city." Axlerod and his four friends stayed in Montreal for five days, over the course of which, they experienced some of the best the city had to offer including the Science and Technology Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art and Grevin Wax Museum, along with numerous of bars, clubs and restaurants. One of the highlights for Axlerod and his friends was the Mount Royal Park, a short drive from their lodging.

"The snowfall and beautiful views made this one of the best moments of the trip for myself and my friends" said Axlerod. "After reaching the top of the mountain, we took some photos and then made our way down on a different trail towards a restaurant located in the mountains. [There is] truly nothing better than enjoying some beer and food after a long hike."

Whether it was fun in the sun or serving the community, mules certainly were all over the map.

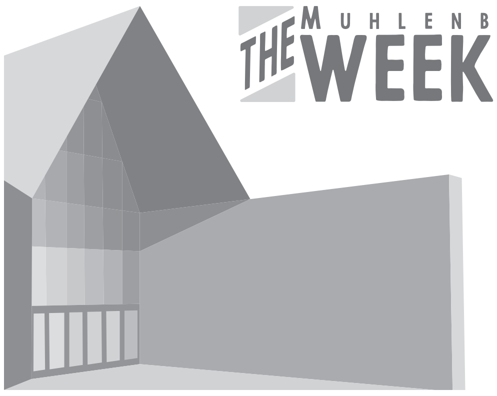
FROM **SPEAKER** PAGE 1

negative effects of natural disaster and war, particularly with respect to prosthetics and burns. Montanti's mission began in her twenties, when personal losses led her to help those suffering in the Bosnian Civil War; her organization has since brought over 100 children to the United States for advanced medical care.

Young has been involved in American politics for over fifty years, having first joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1960; by 1964, he was its Executive Director and an aide to Martin Luther King Jr. Together with King, he helped organize famous civil rights protests in Birmingham and Selma and advocated for landmark policies, including the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts. Young later served three terms as a congressman from Georgia, the ambassador to the United Nations and the mayor of Atlanta.

The process for selecting Muhlenberg's annual honorary degree recipients begins in April of the year preceding commencement, when candidates are brought to the College's nominating committee at the annual Board of Trustees meeting. Generally speaking, preference is given to individuals who have some connection to Muhlenberg, but all recipients must "bring distinction to the College," according to the Office of the President.

One of the last components of the commencement ceremony that has yet to be announced is the senior speaker. Members of the Class of 2018 will vote from three students selected by a different selection committee. The winner will be announced in early April.



> "Music is the expression of the movement of the waters, the play of curves described by changing breezes."
>
> -Claude Debussy

Muhlenberg faculty member shines at recital

By Ellen Powers
Contributing Writer

Last Friday, Muhlenberg faculty member Paul Windt performed in a faculty recital on violin, accompanied by Michael Sheadel on piano. The performance took place in the Recital Hall in the Baker Center for the Arts.

Windt began studying the violin under Mihail Stolarevsky and made his professional recital debut when he was twelve years old. After that, Windt studied at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia with Jascha Brodsky and Efrem Zimbalist. During his time as a faculty member at Muhlenberg, Windt has given yearly recitals with several different pianists to critical acclaim. He was previously a faculty member of Cedar Crest College, Lehigh University, the New School of Music and Temple University Music Prep. Windt has been a violin teacher for fifty years, and his students have gone on to prestigious music schools such as the Eastman School of Music and Temple University.

Sheadel has performed in the United States and Europe as both a soloist and a collaborative pianist. He has also performed with several chamber music ensembles, including the Chestnut Brass Company, the Philadelphia Virtuosi and the Settlement Contemporary Players. Sheadel has earned degrees in piano performance from the Eastman School of Music, The Peabody Conservatory and Temple University. He is a piano teacher at the University of Pennsylvania and the Main Line Conservatory, and he is a former faculty member of the Blue Mountain Chamber Music Festival.

Windt and Sheadel opened their recital with two pieces composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Adagio in E Major, K. 261 and Rondo in C Major, K. 373. Beginning with these two pieces and continuing throughout the performance, Windt and Sheadel both exhibited their impeccable abilities on their respective instruments. They both had an excellent tone, and they blended their sounds together extremely well. Windt and Sheadel did a fantastic job of complementing each other when they played together, but they also had smooth changes in dynamic when either Windt or Sheadel shined in a solo moment. One aspect of Windt's performance that was particularly impressive was that during both Mozart pieces, as well as Christian Sinding's Suite in A Minor, Opus 10 in the second half of the recital, he was not reading music.

The first half of the recital closed with Johannes Brahms' Sonata in G Major, Opus 78 which contained three movements: Vivace ma non troppo, Adagio and Allegro molto moderato. This piece was compelling to watch and listen to because there were many moments in which Windt and Sheadel played the melody of the piece or transitioned it to the other. These moments were seamless, and they brought so much life to the piece that was extremely impressive.

Christian Sinding's Suite in A Minor, Opus 10 opened the second half of the recital. Although Windt was phenomenal throughout the entire recital, this piece in particular allowed his flawless technique to come to the forefront through long runs of notes at a very fast tempo that were perfectly executed. Also, Windt had an especially clear and crisp tone in this piece that was truly beautiful.

While Windt's technique was prominent in the previous piece, Sheadel also had incredible technique during the first movement of the closing piece within the recital, Felix Mendelssohn's Sonata in F Major (composed in 1838). In the latter two movements of the piece, Windt and Sheadel smoothly transitioned from having prominent to more accompaniment roles, switching interchangeably to help feature the other during their turn. It was remarkable that they could have two completely different parts musically, but they were still able to blend their sounds flawlessly. Instead of competing for the prominent role in the piece, they were balancing and juggling each other to achieve a beautiful balance of sound.

The audience had an overwhelmingly positive reaction to Windt's and Sheadel's performances. Even though it was not a particularly large audience, the applause filled the entirety of the recital hall. The enthusiasm from the audience led Windt and Sheadel to play an encore, Cradle Song. When asked about his reaction to the recital, audience member Andrew Leahy '21 responded: "My enjoyment of the performance cannot be overstated. I was particularly drawn to the concentration and engagement of the performers. They were showcasing a side of musicianship that I always take into consideration - not just creating beautiful music but showing it as well." Leahy's reaction is one that seemed to be shared by the entire audience. Windt and Sheadel are both extremely talented, and their performance was a delight to attend.

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Music prize encourages creative competition

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Violinist Margaret Jackson '21, above, recieved an award for "Performance of Distinction" during the Class of 1969 Competition.

By Ethan Forrer
Staff Writer

Every year, when classes come to an end and finals are just around the corner, Muhlenberg's best and brightest join together for the Honors Convocation, where those who were recommended receive various awards for academic achievement. There are many different honors bestowed by all of the departments, but there is one award that can only be achieved by proving yourself in a competition.

This is the Class of 1969 Competition. The Class of '69 Competition is a musical contest held every year in the spring, facilitated by the music department and only open to students who have been recommended to compete by their instructor.

It began in 1980 when several 1969 alumni got together and created the endowment fund necessary to hold the event and award the winner; with great appreciation and respect to the founders, aspiring musical students at Muhlenberg have been performing in the Class of 1969 Competition for the past 38 years.

This competition was hosted and co-judged by Dr. Paul Murphy, the Chair of the Music Department; other judges included Drs. Andrew Ardizzioa, Christopher Jackson, and Kassandra Hartford, some of the full-time music professors here at Muhlenberg, and accompanied by Vincent Trovato, the school's full-time piano accompanist.

The competition is open to anyone in the music department, whether you are an opera singer or an instrumentalist. This year's competition featured a magnificent lineup of impressive musicians performing truly engrossing classical pieces.

Samantha Tropper '18, a soprano recommended by Christa Warda, started off the night by singing the somewhat saucy aria "Una Donna a quindici anni" from Cosi fan Tutte written by Mozart.

Joulian Mone '19, a tenor recommended by Brian Ming Chu, followed Warda up by smugly singing "Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schon," a lovestruck aria from another of Mozart's operas Die Zauberflote.

Next came Anna Birna Turner '18, recommended by Elaine Martin, playing the intricate flute part for the movement Allegro Moderato from the sonata "First Sonata for Flute & Piano" by Bohuslav Martinu.

Then there was Carly Dove '18, a soprano also recommended by Warda too, who sang the coloratura intensive aria "Caro nome" from Rigoletto by Giuseppe Verdi.

Playing the violin without accompaniment, Margaret Jackson '20, recommended by Paul Windt, performed the iconic solo conflict movement "Sonata No. 1 in G minor, BWV 1001"(Adagio and Fuga) by Bach.

Finishing out the night was Maggie Capone '20, a soprano recommended by Megan Durham, singing the revolutionary piece of its time "Gretchen am Spinnada," composed by Franz Schubert, as one of the first arias to only use the script from a poem or drama as the lyrics. The source material for this aria was a scene from part one of the drama Faust by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

Also scheduled to compete, Bailey Fulginiti '18, a soprano also recommended by Warda, was not able to perform due to getting sick at the last minute, but she would've sung "Der Holle Rache" from Die Zauberflote by Mozart.

The winner of this year's competition, through an adept demonstration of challenging music, is Dove for singing the aria "Caro nome." An award for "Performance of Distinction" was given to Jackson for her outstanding interpretation and execution of Bach's "Sonata No. 1 in G minor, BWV 1001."

The Class of 1969 Competition is a little gem of a musical performance that will leave a lasting impression on anyone who experiences it, whether they are inclined towards classical music or not. This event really showcases a distilled look into what the best of our already quite elite music department has to offer the world in the years to come.

Lasting only an hour and featuring only a handful of performances, this competition exudes a comfortable and friendly atmosphere set in the fairly intimate Recital Hall in the CA. When all these factors come together this competition becomes a rare chance to listen to professional level classical music in a very idiosyncratic way that is not usually associated with these kind of high-class opera or symphony performances.

It's not every day that you can sit a few feet away from an opera singer while they delicately produce such powerful singing or so close to a violinist playing a one-instrument symphony that you come to truly admire the intricacies that go into playing the song. Despite the prestige associated with the music that the students are playing, this competition is a great opportunity to enjoy — and maybe come to understand — the epicness that classical music has to offer.

For winning the competition, Dove will be performing a piece of her choice at this year's Honors Convocation, a right reserved for her alone. The music department will be holding the Class of 1969 Competition again next year for another batch of artists to show that Muhlenberg's got talent.

A final send off:

Carly Dove presents her senior recital

By Emma Forgione
Contributing Writer

I could not think of a more pleasurable way to spend my Sunday afternoon than seeing a friend exhibit a culmination of four years in dedicated work. I had that very pleasure this past Sunday at Carly Dove's senior voice recital.

Carly Dove '18, a music major with a concentration in performance, presented twelve pieces and an encore, with accompaniment from Vincent Trovato. Every music major with a performance focus is required to create a senior recital as their Cumulative Undergraduate Experience (CUE). It is a remarkable opportunity to showcase how much they have learned and grown as a performer over four years, as well as exhibit personal creativity.

Dove's repertoire spanned over a variety of genres, beginning with classical pieces including English art songs, German, Italian, and French opera pieces. "I had a lot of practice with a number of these songs because I recorded some of them as prescreening videos to send into graduate school programs." said Dove. "The whole process was a lot of practicing, not only vocal technique, but making sure I was speaking all the foreign languages correctly."

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

"The repertoire I sang was a collection of songs that I've been working on in my voice lessons from freshman year until now, including some songs that are just some of my favorites."

I was particularly impressed by her selection of french songs, singing composers like Fauré and Debussy. One of her crowning moments was during a song called "Les Filles de Cadix" by Léo Delibes, where her sweet soprano voice flourished on some incredible trills. Her stamina, character, and soul showcased in this song were truly astonishing, prompting rapturous applause that filled the Egner Memorial Chapel.

Later in her recital, Dove shifted genres, focusing on pop and musical theater. She commented, "The repertoire I sang was a collection of songs that I've been working on in my voice lessons from freshman year until now, including some songs that are just some of my favorites."

Some of these songs were Joni Mitchell's "Case of You," and "Think of Me" from Phantom of the Opera. Everyone could tell how much "Case of You" meant to Dove, because she sat a bit closer to the audience and really shared her spirit, as well as a softer side of her voice with us. I very much enjoyed her rendition of "Vanilla Ice Cream" from She Loves Me, a challenging song for sopranos, but a rendition by Dove that was one of the best I've ever heard as a resident musical-theater nerd.

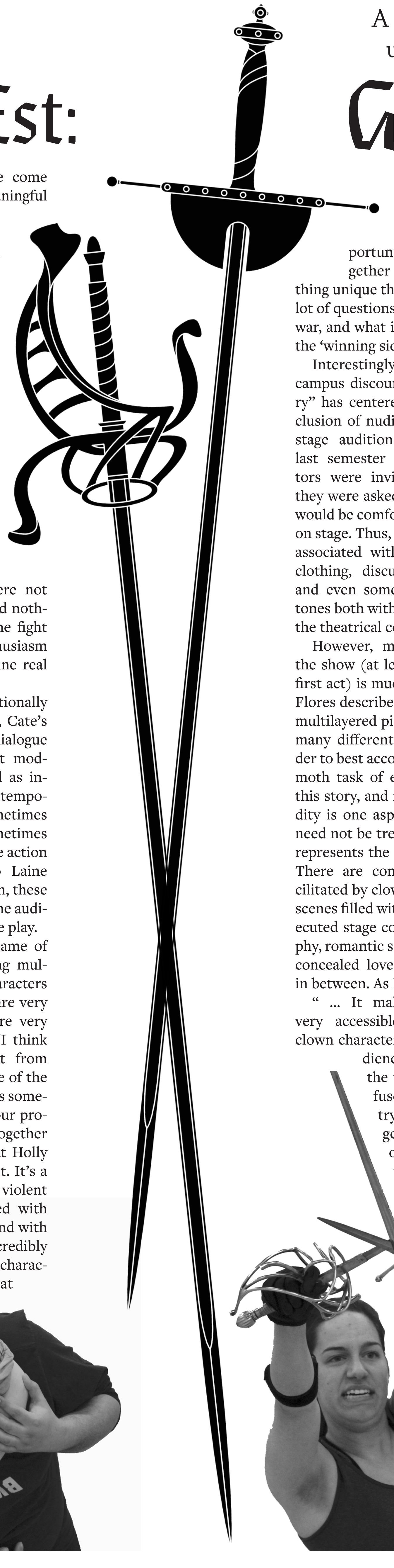
I had asked Dove how she personally thought her performance went and she expressed, "I think the performance went so well; I was very proud of how I did, and I had such a fantastic time up there! It was so special to look out and see my family, friends, and teachers who came to support me. I am so blessed to have been able to share my music with people I really care about."

I cannot agree with her more. I could not help but feel incredibly inspired and moved to see a fellow student achieving such a high honor in conclusion of her time here at Muhlenberg. And on top of that, she looked spectacular in a flowing, teal gown. Everyone should support the senior music recitals because you truly experience some amazing work!

Dulce Et Decorum Est:

A preview of Muhlenberg's upcoming production of

GLORY



By Brooke Weber
A&C Editor

I crack open the door of the Dance Studio Theater and am immediately greeted by the sound of booming voices somehow echoing inside of this confined, acoustically absorbent place. I sneak inside, gingerly placing my backpack in the back corner and sliding to the floor amid unused props and sticky notes. Before me, the room is full of actors in full performance mode, despite the fact that their only audience consists of directors, stage managers and other members of the cast and crew — music reverberates underneath the players' passionate speech as Shakespearean language easily drips from their tongues, each step they take full of purpose and intention.

"Glory," an adaptation of the bard's "Henry VI" tetralogy written and directed by associate theatre professor Holly Cate, is in its final stages of rehearsal. Though weeks still stand between the performances on April 5 through 8, those who have been working on the show for the past few months are certainly not wasting any time. As I observed their run-through on Sunday night, the performers did not stop once, acting as though it were opening night through their everyday clothes and makeshift props.

Unlike many other works that appear on the Muhlenberg mainstage, this show has no previous incarnations to invoke or draw inspiration from: the College's production marks the first full staging of "Glory." Assistant director Sophia Castell '20 believes that this sense of exploration lends itself to the show's uniqueness.

"It's really been interesting working on a new show. Building the world of 'Glory' from the ground up has been a really rewarding experience," Castell said. "I've enjoyed seeing the work that everyone has done come together in such a meaningful way."

Though I did not see the show rehearsed on the Empie stage where it will eventually be performed, the playfulness between setting and content that emerges from the cast and crew's imaginative work is clear. At one point, many of the actors gathered on stage and performed a kind of slapstick battle sequence with sticky note roses, pulled from coat racks standing in for the six-foot-tall rose bushes that currently occupy Empie theatre. The fact that the final props were not available to the actors did nothing to faze them, and the fight proceeded with such enthusiasm that I could easily imagine real roses in their hands.

Beyond these traditionally Shakespearean elements, Cate's adaptation includes dialogue and action changes that modernize the story, as well as introducing a driving, contemporary soundtrack that sometimes complements and sometimes humorously contrasts the action on stage. According to Laine Flores '20, who plays Joan, these updates are what invite the audience into the world of the play.

"The show is very 'Game of Thrones'-esque, following multiple plot lines and characters throughout. The stakes are very high, and the politics are very personal," said Flores. "I think that 'Glory' is different from other mainstages because of the world it takes place in. It's something that our cast and our production team have built together from the foundation that Holly laid for us with her script. It's a strangely beautiful and violent world, filled with dangers and with the incredibly human characters that navigate around those dangers. We've had this wonderful opportunity to play together and create something unique that makes us ask a lot of questions about humanity, war, and what it means to be on the 'winning side' of history."

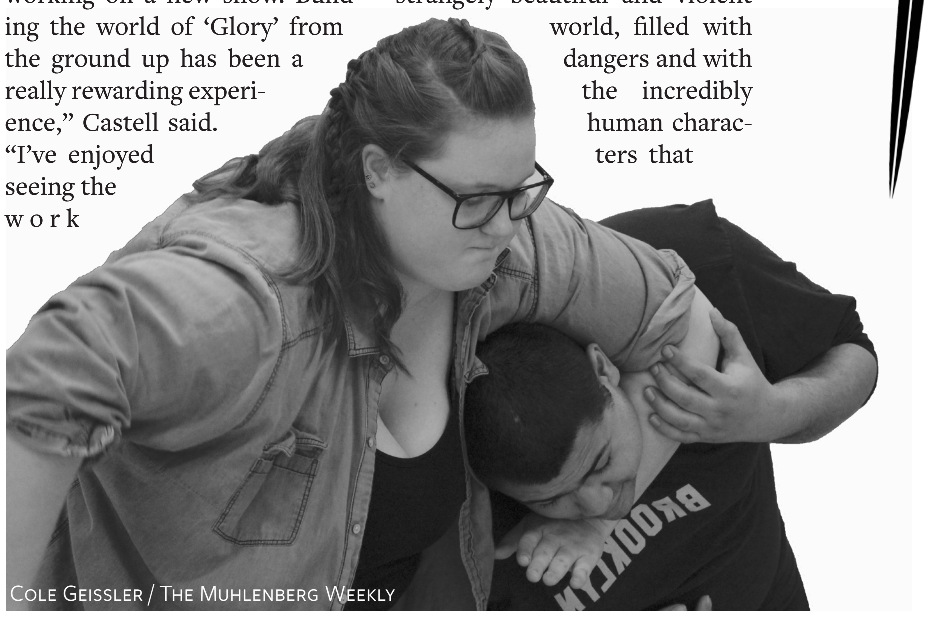
Interestingly, much of the campus discourse around "Glory" has centered around its inclusion of nudity – when mainstage auditions rolled around last semester and hopeful actors were invited to sign up, they were asked how much they would be comfortable displaying on stage. Thus, the show became associated with an absence of clothing, discussed in hushed and even somewhat concerned tones both within and outside of the theatrical community.

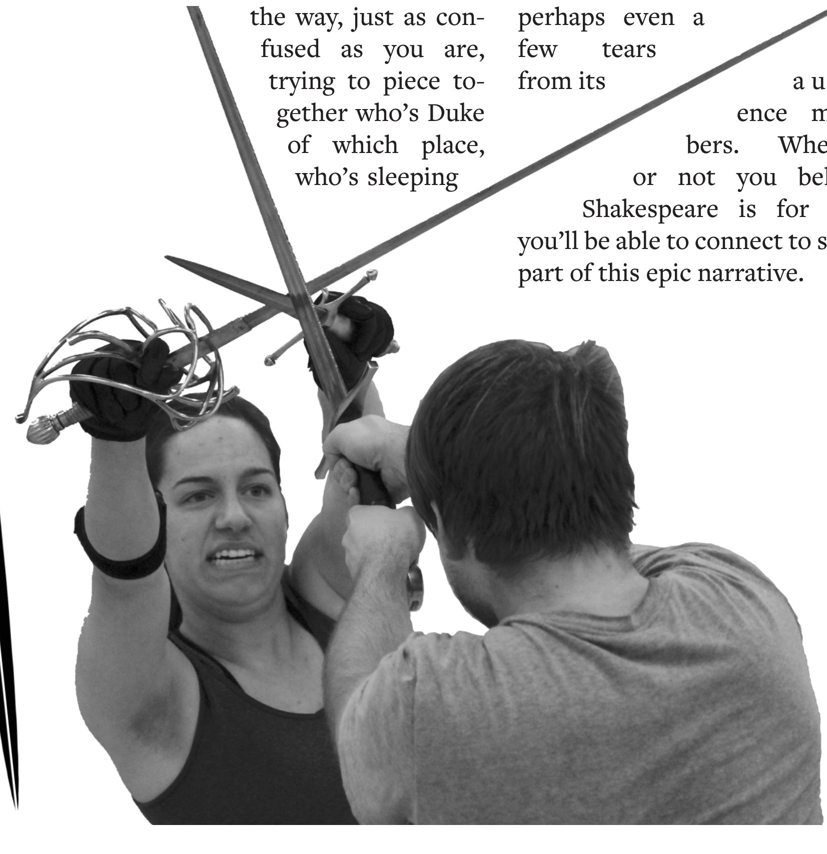
However, my experience of the show (at least in seeing the first act) is much closer to what Flores describes: it is a complex, multilayered piece that contains many different elements in order to best accomplish the mammoth task of effectively telling this story, and if consensual nudity is one aspect of the art, it need not be treated as though it represents the show as a whole. There are comedic scenes facilitated by clowns, serious fight scenes filled with impeccably executed stage combat choreography, romantic scenes that hint at concealed love, and everything in between. As Flores said:

" … It makes Shakespeare very accessible. The cast of clown characters is with the audience every step of the way, just as confused as you are, trying to piece together who's Duke of which place, who's sleeping with whom, and who's organizing which murders. I know that sometimes people view heightened language as intimidating and are worried that they won't understand what's going on, but 'Glory' bridges the gap between Shakespeare's language and our modern English very nicely."

The cast of characters is large, and the overarching plot even larger, but the performers' acting and the clever movements of the set weave seamlessly through the narrative. Even if the words being said are difficult to understand, the actors' tones make their intentions clear, and the careful direction of certain moments makes it clear when we should really be paying attention. For instance, there are several occasions on which everyone on stage suddenly moves in slow motion for a few seconds, allowing the viewer's eyes to roam and really track what's going on. On the opposite end of the spectrum, rapid-fire shouting matches between characters like those played by Xavier Pacheo '19 and Lauren McGinty '18 provide a clear sense of conflict and urgency even in their agonizing silences, each actor's intensity on full display. The clowns solemnly echo Flores's character as she shouts "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori," though they later confess they have no clue what it means.

"Glory" is certainly an adaptation that does not rely only on what the world's most famous playwright has left behind. It stands on its own two feet, a new and lively work that is sure to inspire laughs, gasps and perhaps even a few tears from its audience members. Whether or not you believe Shakespeare is for you, you'll be able to connect to some part of this epic narrative.





Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS&EDITORIALS

Editorial

Joking Hazard

Assessing the threat of “fake news” to one of The Weekly’s most treasured traditions

For many decades, on the Thursday closest to April 1, the Muhlenberg College student newspaper has become a broadsheet of satire. Every article is written with Onion-style content told in a plain news fashion, a joke our staff looks forward to pulling every year. Now, that time of year has come again: our next issue will be our April Fool’s edition. Perhaps calling attention to the joke ahead of time spoils it, but this year especially poses some real concerns that need to be addressed before our satire hits newsstands.

These last two years, the rise of fake news has been no joking matter. Fake news has become a very real insult and a danger to a newspaper’s credibility — not because it actually says anything about the organization’s credibility, but because it diminishes the power of the press in the public eye. Fake news tends to fall into one of two categories: it’s either a dismissal by authority of disagreeable facts, or the deliberate creation of fabricated content to feed a certain mentality.

If anything, society at large is becoming distrustful of the media’s accuracy and ethical respects for the truth in general. And in the midst of this turmoil is our long-standing tradition to print a joke paper.

Unlike the purveyors of fake news, who promote their own viewpoint while stubbornly shutting out others, we do everything in our power to make sure that our audience is in on the joke. Satire, unlike fake news, lets the reader know it is fake by presenting an outlandish idea as reasonable —and in that way, creates humor. Our April Fool’s content would then qualify as satire.

And even though we’ve taken steps to avoid wrongful accusations of fake news, we’ve still encountered miscommunications. Last year we wrote a piece to make fun of the lack of parking on campus, and although we published it only in the April Fool’s PDF of the edition, some still believed it was true. Even though every one of our Op-Ed Editor Will Wamser’s pieces is satire, we have still received angry emails taking what he wrote literally, and his article on not vaccinating his kids (because he hates his kids) was actually picked up and shared by anti-vaxxer groups on the internet.

We intend to keep to our tradition and publish our most-read issue. But we recognize the larger risk. Even in doing the best we can, writing satire is a risk within itself of being misunderstood. And we recognize that.

Additionally, in the grand scheme of things, a single issue at a small liberal arts school once a year as a tradition isn’t going to gain national attention. But the need to address this beforehand as a warning, or a defense, says a lot about the larger concerns about the power the term “fake news” has gained in the last two years.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

In defense of “The Defenders”

By Brooke Weber
A&C Editor

Over winter break, I made the fateful decision to dive headfirst into the almost ludicrously expansive universe of Marvel original Netflix shows. In typical inexperienced fan fashion, I accidentally watched the one show that required the prior knowledge of all of the others first: The Defenders.

This 2017 series brings together Daredevil, Jessica Jones, Luke Cage, and Iron Fist for eight episodes full of fight sequences, tense, mumbled dialogue, and, of course, just a few too many ninjas. Though the series has hardly received critical acclaim (one review from The Vulture notably calls it “a pretty grim slog”), it’s definitely built on foundations of huge potential, and the hope that those foundations might suddenly skyrocket into something interesting kept me watching to the end. Unfortunately, the show never quite gets there, relying on relationships already forged in each character’s solo series to string along the plot to its dubious close and failing to establish the Defenders as a connected team.

Still, any of the unfortunate souls on the receiving end of my recent Marvel rants could tell you that my least favorite part of the show by far was Iron Fist, also known as multi-billionaire Danny Rand. Beyond the fact that the character’s concept itself is questionable (flanked by a largely Asian supporting cast, he is a white main character who somehow manages to master a fictional and largely othered mish-mosh of martial arts better than any of the Asian characters who originated it, a pattern that Marvel is all too fond of following), he is simply uninteresting, sporting a perpetual scowl and consistently taking himself far too seriously. At one point in the series, Luke is literally tasked with babysitting Danny after he refuses to go into hiding for the sake of New York’s safety and pushes around an amused Daredevil like a toddler who’s just been put in time-out. His character remains static throughout the show, and to the last episode any appearance of Iron Fist had me rolling my eyes and reaching for my phone.

As it turns out, though, my adventures with the Defenders didn’t end there. The supergroup’s new comic incarnation, written by Brian Michael Bendis and drawn by David Marquez, was recently canceled, but my interest in the characters’ potential was enough to make me pick up its first collected volume. I was floored by the easy flow of the dialogue, the perfectly struck balance between humor and seriousness, the clear establishment that each character was willing to work with and trust the others — and, most of all, the hilarious and endearing characterization of Iron Fist.

Though the problematic nature of his background is still present, this Danny Rand seems to intentionally parody himself. Actions and words that come off as self-important in the TV show are juxtaposed on the page with almost disarmingly commonplace dialogue — even as he meditates seriously in a hospital room, he calls another character a “jerkface.” He puts forth his talents for the benefit of others and actually banters with the other Defenders rather than being — pardon the pun — defensive. Here, our four protagonists seem to unite as a team. They fight and plot and joke in tandem, constantly guessing at Daredevil’s real name (most of the others are convinced it’s Gary) even as they stake out a mission. And it’s not just Iron Fist who’s different — Daredevil himself, the other downer in the world of Marvel Netflix shows, maintains just enough of his traditional focused composure whilst still partaking in the fun.

Who knows — you too might be converted to loving your least favorite characters.

All of these discrepancies beg the question: what is it about the medium of TV show versus comic that makes the change so drastic?

Certainly, some of the difference is simply due to the fact that different teams are behind both Defenders incarnations. Beyond that, though, Marvel’s Netflix shows as a whole are the darkest out of all of the company’s ventures, consistently subjecting their viewers to extremely graphic violence (Elektra Natchios, anyone?) and only occasionally breaking up seriously twisted plots with dry humor, perhaps with the exception of Jessica Jones. They’re also literally the darkest — it’s almost impossible to see what happens in a Marvel Netflix show unless you’re huddled up in a room with all the lights turned off and the shades pulled down.

The comics, on the other hand, seem to have their own special brand of humor. Characters develop their own personal quirks of dialogue and action, and laugh-out-loud funny lines might appear a page or two after a character almost dies. Battles and banter can occur simultaneously and seamlessly, as there’s no need to work within the confines of an actor’s body or pause for some semblance of realism. Perhaps this is why the comics flesh out the potential of these characters so easily: there are no limits, no expectations of realistic humanity, on the pages of a comic book. It might come off as campy or far-reaching for a character on a Marvel Netflix show to be injured, heal completely in a few hours, and make jokes the entire time.

Why? Well, the characters in the Marvel Netflix universe are people. They’re people who genuinely live among us, working on the ground to better everyone’s lives — they’re not the Avengers sitting in a tower, removed from the public and keeping their private lives private. Some, like Luke Cage, wear their powers on their sleeves, unable to hide behind a secret identity. Whilst the goal of the comics tends much more towards total escapism, the possibilities of the page basically infinite, the goal of the shows is to give the viewer who might be familiar with Marvel movies a taste of another side to superheroism: not the Captain Americas, but the Jessica Joneses, the ones who could be any of us.

Though this conclusion doesn’t smooth over the many problems in the shows, especially The Defenders, it does provide a glimpse at what the creators might have aimed for. Neither the dark Netflix approach nor the more lighthearted comic one is correct, per say, but if you’ve been as emotionally drained by the drama as I have, pick up a copy of the Defenders Volume I: Diamonds are Forever as soon as you can. Who knows — you too might be converted to loving your least favorite characters.

Helping the victims of Hurricane Harvey

The call to action starts now

By Barrett Ozga
Contributing Writer

Natural disasters commonly remain within the scope of news coverage only shortly after they occur. Sometimes, only weeks later, there tends to be a tremendous amount of negligence by not only the media, but by those uninvested and unaffected by such events. Hurricane Harvey is exemplary of this unexcusable lack of effort and initiative.

Over the week of spring break, myself, as well as a group of 11 Muhlenberg students and two faculty members, traveled to Houston, Texas to help alleviate the damages caused by the hurricane. We volunteered with various organizations including the Saint Bernard Project, Houston Food Bank, Undies for Everyone and Sewa International, all nonprofits who have been working fervently to ease the suffering the Houstonians have faced. What prompted us to invest our spring breaks in Houston was most prevalently through seeing the photos of the displaced families who were unsure of what would come next. As we proactively utilized our time in Houston the overarching purpose of the trip evolved; our collective efforts would not be over upon returning to Muhlenberg. We realized that our responsibility after experiencing post-Harvey Houston was to bring awareness back to the Muhlenberg community. We would do this by sharing stories of not only our personal experiences, but of the resilient Houstonians in hopes of inspiring others to take initiative.

One of the days on our trip we volunteered with the St. Bernard Project whose mission is to "shrink the time between disaster and recovery." While volunteering with this organization we worked on repairing the home of Ms. Shirley Green. Ms. Green is an elderly, legally blind woman who has been living in her home on Pardee Street for over thirty-five years. Her husband, Mr. Foster, had passed away in 2016, which left her living alone at the time of Hurricane Harvey. Back in 2002, Mr. Foster suffered his first stroke, leaving him unable to work, and thus the couple was unable to afford flood insurance. On top of that, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denied Ms. Green assistance. This is why organizations like the St. Bernard Project (SBP) become involved. The SBP essentially gathers volunteers from all across the country to work on mucking and gutting, mold remediation, and eventually, rebuilding. These organizations are the main source of relief for people like Ms. Green who want to return to the familiarity and comfort of their own homes. The SBP realizes that the quicker these homes are rebuilt, the sooner individuals and families who have faced such catastrophes can begin rebuilding their lives.

The damages will not go away shortly. However, they can go away through your continuous effort and dedication.

While Ms. Green has experienced tremendous emotional pain and suffering, she stills remains hopeful. Like Ms. Green, the Houston community has remained resilient. Much of this resiliency is maintained through the generosity and unity of people who want to make a difference. However more people are needed in this generosity. Ms. Green's story is reflective of the many struggles people who have survived natural disasters are facing and wouldn't be able to resolve as quickly, effectively, and financially accessible without the help of organizations like the St. Bernard Project. Since Harvey, roughly 180,000 volunteers from all across the world have invested themselves in the SBP's continuous and collective effort. Without these volunteers' assistance and willingness to help, along with generous donations made to this effort, fellow humans like Ms. Green wouldn't otherwise receive the immediate aid needed. While there is much resiliency in Houston much more must be done.

Therefore, I ask you, the Muhlenberg community to give your time, dedication and willingness to this worthy issue of the suffering people population feeling hopeless This investment is worth it because it makes suffering communities hopeful. This call to action would allow suffering individuals to feel a sense of comfort and familiarity once the damages are alleviated. To make the most of this investment, start by doing something small.

The damages will not go away shortly. However, they can go away through your continuous effort and dedication. This should not be seen as a favor to those who participated on this trip, rather we are asking you make the most out of this investment because it will make the lives of the suffering better.

To help Ms. Green, as well as the hundreds of thousands of people affected by Hurricane Harvey, including those who have faced other natural disasters, no action is too small. If I've learned one lesson from my experiences in Houston, it's that all it takes is one person to make a difference. There's still a tremendous amount of room for improvement, and I ask you to invest your time and money in aiding individuals like Ms. Green who have suffered tremendous losses. Your effort can in turn cause a chain reaction, creating a ripple effect of universal aid.

News outlets have crossed the line

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

It is 2018 everyone, we know that how everyone gets their news is in a bad way. We have countless examples of news outlets intentionally spreading misinformation and excluding big stories to change the pervasive narrative in our country. And, as much as I hate to say it, "fake news" has also proved itself to be a problem. But in recent days the biased lame-stream media has crossed a line, I'd say that things went from bad to worse but in reality, it has gone from bad to worst, and I don't use that word lightly.

I can deal with Fox News' biased and bigoted reports based on information from weak sources. I can deal with CNN leaving out pertinent information from their stories. I can even deal with the New York Times giving a platform for bigoted opinions that have no place in the current discourse. But I'm not gonna deal with this one. It is made worse as every news outlet has failed, not only me, but the world as a whole. And it is not what was said, it was what was left unsaid.

On Tuesday, Mar. 20, Richard Starkey, also known as Ringo Starr and one of the original lads from Liverpool, was made a knight by the royal family, and for some reason I did not find out until like 10 minutes ago.

How does something like this happen? One of the biggest news stories of the millennium somehow didn't come across my desk until like 10 minutes ago. Actually, I just checked and it was more like five minutes ago, how messed up it that? THIS SHOULD NOT HAPPEN! This is the most unacceptable act by the lame-scream media yet, they should have known to show me that Richard went from Ringo to Sir Ringo.

For those of you who aren't familiar with my lord Sir Ringo Starr, stop reading. I do not want you in my readership, you don't deserve my words. You deserve nothing. For anyone who knows who he is but not where he came from, let me take you on a journey. Sir Ringo Starr wasn't always a knight, he wasn't even always a Ringo. At his birth in lovely Liverpool, Ringo Starr was Richard Starkey. Both his mother and father died during childbirth, leaving Richard alone in a frightening world. He was soon adopted by his brother, John Lennon (ever heard of him?), who raised Richard as his own. What happened between Richard's birth and his 13th birthday is one of life's greatest mysteries, but on that birthday, he became Ringo when he accidently put on a ring that was essential to a cult's sacrifice to the goddess Kaili. Ringo was unable to take off the ring and thus wears it to this day.

In all fairness, I can't blame every news outlet — just kidding. I can, and I will.

It wasn't until he was 19 when he had the idea to start a band and began playing the drums. This band went on to be the B-52s, though Ringo was kicked out of the band he created very quickly. That was when the Fab Four took pity on him and allowed him to join, in later years it was revealed that they did so solely as a prank — but this prank brought the band to fame and fortune. Over the years of fame with the Beatles, Ringo became bored of his rock and roll lifestyle and the year before the breakup, he decided to change his catch phrase from "war and hate" to "peace and love."

Many people theorize why Ringo decided to leave the band, with theories including that he got lost and that he was found. But the truth is that Ringo left the Beatles to focus on his true dreams, starring in Skechers ads — a dream he achieved.

Currently, Sir Ringo spends most of his time tweeting out pictures with a caption along the lines of "Peace and love and peace and love and peace and love," and stretching his index and middle fingers to prepare for any peace signs he may have to throw up.

Every single musician, living or dead, lists Ringo Starr as their greatest influence. That's just a fact, no two ways about it. Which makes it even more confusing that nobody told me that he had been knighted. Anderson Cooper didn't tell me, Wolf Blitzer didn't tell me, Rachel Maddow didn't tell me, nobody told me! If that didn't already hurt enough, I had dinner with Wolf on Wednesday and I even asked him if there was any news about Ringo and he said no! He lied straight to my beautiful face, who does that?

In all fairness, I can't blame every news outlet — just kidding I can, and I will. Take for instance, this very paper. That's right, I'm coming after the mad dogs who run this joke of a newspaper. Do yourself a favor and check out the front page because last I checked there ain't no picture of Sir Ringo Starr up there. That's right Greg: you're part of the problem. That is why I am calling for an all-out boycott of all news outlets, but especially The Muhlenberg Weekly.

If you are holding the paper right now, burn it. If you are reading this online, burn your computer. If you are reading this some other way, burn something of your choice. Because after this debacle, I think I'm about the pull up a chair right next to the Joker and watch the world burn.

I want to end this article with a thank you to Sir Ringo Starr, who has brought peace and love into the lives of every single human being on any planet. You sir, are my hero and my father. I love you dad. So, dad if you want to reach out for a catch sometime, I'm on Facebook. Peace and love.

FROM **TEAM IMPACT** PAGE 12

pact locally,” said Gross. “I don’t think it’s very easy to get paired up but the opportunity arose and we took it. It kind of worked out perfectly.”

With just weeks until the season would begin, both coaches and players wasted little time getting to know their newest teammate. First, Bobby was recruited, and his family came on a traditional recruiting visit where they were given a tour of the weight room, field house, the famous dining hall and the dorms. Before the spring break trip, he was able to come out to a practice where the team let him pitch and hit, just in time for his own tryouts.

But for Bobby, his family and the team, this is more than just baseball.

Described by his mother as “strong-willed since day one, a man of few words,” Bobby was diagnosed with high risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia in March 2014. While he underwent treatment, his family made sure he also had time to be a kid.

And then, about a year after his diagnosis, Bobby played baseball for the first time.

“I feel it helped him feel normal,” said Kristin DiGiacomo, Bobby’s mother. “He loved being part of a team. It didn’t bother him that he was a lot slower and could barely swing a bat.”

After three and a half years of treatment, Bobby has been off all chemotherapy since June 2017. DiGiacomo says her son may appear as though things don’t affect him, but they do, and after losing three and a half years of his childhood, they joined Team Impact in hopes of getting him the connections he missed out on.

“I really want Bobby to connect with the players,” said DiGiacomo. “He has a lot of anxiety, is so shy and doesn’t express himself much. I know he loves being with the older ‘kids.’ He needs positive connections outside of school and a place to ‘belong.’ As a secondary factor, I also want him to be motivated to go to college and continue learning.”

As for those older kids, DiGiacomo said she never really thought about them getting anything out of it. “I guess I would want them to learn you can’t control what happens to you in your life. You need to deal with it and move forward. It was a hard lesson for me to learn, but Bobby handled it like a champ. He adapted.”

> **“Having Bobby on our team will show the guys how lucky we are to be able to play college baseball. There are so many kids that would love to play but do not get the opportunity.”**

Echoing DiGiacomo’s sentiment, Freid said, “For Bobby, I believe joining the team will give him something to look forward too and will help him take his mind off things; it will help him realize that he is no different from any other kid. For the baseball team, I believe that Bobby will push each and every one of us to play with heart because we know what he has been through. Having Bobby on our team will show the guys how lucky we are to be able to play college baseball. There are so many kids that would love to play but do not get the opportunity.”

Gross agrees, hoping that both Bobby and the Muhlenberg players get something out of Team Impact. “I think as a whole number one for our guys to be involved with somebody that has had some struggles. With our guys being college athletes and all that, I think it’s good for them to be there for Bobby and help him through everything. I think on the other end, Bobby impacts our guys lives as well.”

Despite missing “the guys,” Bobby didn’t have to wait long between their Sunday morning Facetime and being reunited with his new mentors, teammates and friends. On Monday afternoon, at their home field and with their new biggest fan braving the sharp, frigid winds that blew off the creek, Muhlenberg baseball beat Wilkes 10-4. The postgame time with Bobby made the win all the more special.

As the other team packed their equipment and left the dugout, Koester, almost the same height on one knee as the nine-year-old standing up, positioned himself next to Bobby and watched him throw. Most days the players would be eager to get out of the cold and head back to campus for a shower and a warm meal after a game, but today the team hangs around to give out celebratory fist bumps or congratulate Bobby on his tryouts. Because, at the end of the day, it isn’t about winning or losing or however many miles an hour the wind is blowing.

Now, it’s about who they’re playing for and the impact they make.

Leading the pack:

Students create an organization to bring community and athletes together

BY STEVEN SHOEMAKER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Muhlenberg Athletic Leadership Team (known as M.A.L.T.) is the latest student organization within athletics. The club was recently founded by Ashley Polera ‘20, women’s basketball point guard and Jordan Cimiring ‘20, defender on the men’s soccer team.

Polera and Cimiring were inspired to create the organization because they wanted to show how athletics can create a stronger connection between people and Muhlenberg’s community as a whole. The goal of the club is to immerse surrounding communities with our campus athletics, in order to create a fan base that is more emotionally connected with Muhlenberg.

The club runs events, such as sports drives, that will bring organizations to our campus so that kids can participate in various sports activities. Building relationships is always a part of anyone’s college experience, but it is even more meaningful when you are able to build relationships that allow you to give back to your community.

The clubs’ executive board consists of 13 student athletes that come from nine different teams. Coaches from each of the nine teams recommend players from their team who will make a big impact on the community.

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Lehigh Valley Health Network

LIBBY JULIANO / THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Sophomores Jordan Cimiring and Ashley Polera spearhead an organization within athletics aimed at developing relations with younger Lehigh Valley athletes.

The idea sprouted when Polera and Cimiring took notice of how every sports team tends to sit with their respective team in the dining hall. All 22 teams mingling together is something that will bring everyone closer and would make the athletics community more connected.

One way the pair hopes to promote a tight-knit community is through hosting events where all teams can come together and volunteer. Polera and Cimiring want to motivate woman, inspire younger generations, and to help those out who cannot play college sports like students can.

On Saturday, Feb. 17, the women’s basketball team held their annual Senior Night and M.A.L.T. had its time to shine. A youth basketball team of eight and nine year olds from St. Aquinas came to cheer on the women’s team and at halftime were invited onto the court to participate in a game of basketball. Although small, M.A.L.T. wanted to get their name out there and encourage the athletics community to look forward to the bigger events that are to come.

In the future, the club hopes to hold a variety of events throughout the semester. “The big thing is for people to look forward to the events,” said Cimiring.

The next scheduled program is going to be during DIII Week. From April 2-8, Muhlenberg athletes will be honored for their academic accomplishments, for those who became all-American athletes, and are honored for their leadership and community service accomplishments. The event is planned for Friday, April 6.

Any athlete is eligible to join M.A.L.T. The bigger the club becomes, the more connected Muhlenberg hopes to be. An eventual goal is giving back to those who are less fortunate.

The Athletic Department has helped out greatly with planning the clubs events, as M.A.L.T. is entirely funded by Muhlenberg athletics. Department of Athletics administrators Megan Patruno, Lily Otu, and Corey Goff have all been key players in getting M.A.L.T. up and running. Polera and Cimiring recognize that Goff has been able to help connect the student organization with foundations and programs in the greater Allentown Community.

“[Goff] is a huge supporter of the club and it is going to be very difficult when he leaves,” said Polera and Cimiring.

The founders have also been advertising growing their organization like creating social media like their Instagram page: Muhlenberg_al_team. Expanding is a short term goal for the club.

“We want people to be a part of this club and to be proud,” said Polera.

FROM **KRAMPF** PAGE 12

graduate assistant level at Centennial Conference foe McDaniel College and as a head coach at Kenyon College for the past four seasons.

Similar to Keckler, Krampf inherited a Kenyon program that was struggling into a program that produced several winning seasons during her tenure. Despite coaching away from the teams she faced in college, Krampf was aware of the recent success of the Muhlenberg program in the competitive Centennial Conference.

"I am really looking forward to having the opportunity to work at Muhlenberg," said Krampf. "Having played for Alexa when she was at Gettysburg, I have had the opportunity to watch the growth and development of the program. I am excited to come in and work with the current players towards the goal of winning the conference tournament."

"I am excited to come in and work with the current players towards the goal of winning the conference tournament," says Krampf

Coming back to the Centennial Conference is quite meaningful for Krampf, as she states, "It is really exciting to be able to be coaching back in the Centennial Conference. This is the conference that I played in and got my coaching career started in so it means a lot to be back."

Even though the official announcement of Krampf's hiring came on Mar. 12, Krampf has already met the players as well as some of the other coaches during her interview and her first few days in Allentown. Although Krampf inherits a successful and talented Muhlenberg team and has had excellent success as a head coach, there are still challenges in front of her.

"I think the biggest challenges will be learning a new institution, learning about the current players on the team and how to best coach them, and finding the right recruits for Muhlenberg as soon as possible," said Krampf.

With a successful 2017 season behind them, the Muhlenberg Volleyball team looks to continue their success with Krampf now at the helm and focused on making a smooth transition.

"I want to make sure that I am making the transition as quickly as possible," said Krampf, "so that we can keep the momentum from the fall as we head into our spring season this week."

FROM **GOFF** PAGE 12

ests to staying at Muhlenberg and fostering his career in the many shades of red the College has adopted throughout his time. Smack in the middle of his five seasons (2001-2005) as the offensive coordinator another promotion was headed in Goff's direction.

In 2003 Goff was named an assistant athletic director by former athletic director Sam Beidleman, which opened Goff's eyes to world of athletic administration. "After my first year as an assistant AD I knew I wanted to become an athletic director," explained Goff. "Sam asked me to start helping out with some administrative duties in the department," said Goff. "I enjoyed the work, so he obliged by giving me more responsibility."

Goff's duties increased yet again in 2007 and 2008 when he became the head baseball coach while also taking on the responsibilities of associate athletic director. "The following five years my responsibilities grew and I became increasingly motivated to serve the college as the AD once Sam retired," he says.

By the time Beidleman's retirement came Goff was prepared. "I had gained enough administrative experience to be a viable candidate for the job."

In 2012, Goff was named the director of athletics and recreation, a promotion which would be his last at Muhlenberg College, as the 18 year duration of Goff's tenure in Allentown will conclude in May of 2018. Goff is moving to Miami to become the director of athletics and physical education of Ransom Everglades School. The move leaves Goff only a few short months to reminisce about the memories which turned a short term vision into an 18 year reality.

"To me it has been more about the people I have been fortunate enough to work with during my time at Muhlenberg," Goff reflected. "I have been mentored by our student athletes, their families, my colleagues in the athletic department, our amazing alumni and employees from every corner of this campus."

Two of those individuals have specifically stood out to Goff. "Mike Donnelly and Sam Beidleman have had the most profound impact on my professional success," he said. "I will forever be in their debt."

The reason Goff endlessly stressed thanking those he has worked with is simple; they have surrounded him throughout his greatest Muhlenberg memories. "By far the best part of this job is the daily interaction and relationships with our student athletes." Those who he worked for, and worked hard for.

In fact, Goff's favorite stories of his time on campus revolve around seeing student athletes succeeding, sometimes unconventially so.

He recalls shoveling nearly two feet of snow off of the field at Scotty Wood Stadium a few years ago to make sure the football team could play against conference rival Dickinson College. He remembers Brian Beck hitting a grand slam against Johns Hopkins with his elderly grandfather in the stands, noting he thought it was the only game the fan ever attended. Goff especially appreciated his occasional Campus Safety ride-alongs. "The reaction when student athletes saw me get out of the patrol car to observe an officer break up a 'study gathering' were often priceless," Goff joked.

Looking ahead, Goff's is confident in the smooth transition to southern Florida. "The school has 76 teams between the middle and high school and a full physical education department that includes five days of physical education through eighth grade for all students," explained Goff. "I will be charged with providing leadership for all coaches and teachers." Goff especially looks forward to being able to share the educational experience with his sons Michael and Collin, ages 10 and 12, respectively.

As for now, Goff hopes to enjoy his last semester at Muhlenberg while seeing the teams succeed, and spending time with the people he has been able to connect with in his 18 year stretch.

"So many great people have had tremendous influence on my time at the college. There is no way for me to list them all without feeling like I left someone off that deserves mention," Goff says.

"Every new position [at Muhlenberg] has offered a new set of exciting opportunities," stated Goff. "I just hope people felt I worked hard for the College and that together, the members of our team provided an opportunity for our student athletes to excel during their time at the college. I have enjoyed the ride."

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Corey Goff's off to Miami

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

In the summer of 2000, Corey Goff was in the home of Muhlenberg's former Head Football Coach, Mike Donnelly. Not to go over game plans or discuss football, a passion both men shared. Rather, the pair painted some rooms in Donnelly's home, just two weeks Goff had been hired to join Donnelly's staff at Muhlenberg College. "How do you say no to your new boss when he asks if you can give him a hand?" asked Goff jokingly.

Donnelly found Goff through Albany football coach Bob Ford; a "common mentor," as Goff described. Goff's first gig under Donnelly was not as a painter, but rather as an offensive assistant with the 'Berg football team. Just a season later Goff was promoted — a trend which would continue throughout his 18 year tenure at Muhlenberg — to the football team's offensive coordinator.

Goff admits that when he took that assistant coaching position even he did not anticipate such a large chunk of his career would be dedicated to the Mules athletic department.

"My professional goals have changed periodically as my career and personal life has developed over the past 20+ years," he said. "When I joined the Muhlenberg community 18 years ago, I thought I would be here for two or three years and move on to coach football at a larger school as an assistant coach or become a head coach at another small liberal arts college."

However, each promotion moved Goff's inter-

see **Goff** page 11

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Corey Goff recently announced that he will be departing Muhlenberg after serving in the athletics department in a variety of roles for 18 years. Above, Goff addresses the audience of the 2017 Athletics Hall of Fame Ceremony.

Keckler to Krampf

Photo Courtesy of Kenyon College

Amanda Krampf takes over as the head coach of the Muhlenberg College volleyball program after heading Kenyon College's program for four years.

By Josh Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

After eight successful years as head coach of the Muhlenberg volleyball program, Alexa Keckler resigned in early February to take the head coaching position at Lehigh University.

Over the course of her eight years at Muhlenberg, Keckler guided the Mules to success both in the Centennial Conference and regionally. After leaving a successful mark at Gettysburg College, Keckler took a Muhlenberg program that was 6-21 in her first year to new heights. This included six winning seasons and four Centennial Conference playoff appearances, including a 24-6 record and a trip to the Centennial Conference playoffs with a roster that did not contain a single senior just this past season.

As Keckler leaves to coach nearby Lehigh, a Division 1 Program, Muhlenberg hired Amanda Krampf, a decorated player under Keckler at Gettysburg from 2006-2009, as well as a successful coach both at the

see **Krampf** page 11

Bobby's boys: Team Impact player joins Mules

National organization pairs children with serious illnesses to college athletic teams

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

On a unusually quiet Sunday, in the morning hours before students returned to campus from spring break, a small fraction of the Muhlenberg baseball team shuffled into Seegers Union and situated themselves around a couch. Decked out in baggy sweats and baseball caps, they're still slightly groggy from multiple plane rides and the six games they've played in four days. They have another annual spring break trip in the books, but it's actually a team member's baseball tryouts that they're focused on now.

Six players — one first baseman, two pitchers, one catcher, one outfielder, and a second baseman — huddled around a phone, staring at a mirror image of themselves in the screen as the ring tone repeats in the background. Nine-year-old Bobby DiGiacomo answers his mother's phone, staring back at a group of once strangers he now calls his team. The Muhlenberg players had called to check in, see if he wanted to come out to a game at the Cedar Creek field and get the details on how his tryouts went the week they were away.

Jack Avallone '20, Brandon Eden '19, Kenny Freid '19, Steve Koester '19, Jake Picker '18 and Justin Revel '19 may differ in class year and position but they all share one commonality: all six serve as the main student ambassadors for the team's recent endeavor. They listen intently as Bobby gives them the run down.

Pop flies are his favorite thing to do at tryouts right now. He's not hitting yet but they're starting the next day. And then, out of the blue, he asks if they want to see his room.

"There were two big turning points, at least for me," said Picker. "First was him asking us if we wanted to see his room and him giving us a little tour. And then the last thing was, we were about to hang up and he says, 'I miss you guys.' I think for all of us that was a wow moment. This is a kid who three weeks ago didn't say two words to us. It's exciting."

Bobby became part of the Muhlenberg baseball team after both joined Team Impact. According to the organization's website, Team Impact is a national nonprofit that connects children facing serious and chronic illnesses to local college athletic teams, forming lifelong bonds and life-changing outcomes. Families and schools are responsible for signing up if they are interested, and then the waiting game for a match begins.

According to Tod Gross, Baseball Head Coach, Picker was the one that was really invested and pushed for the team to join, but it wasn't his first experience with Team Impact. As a member of the Muhlenberg ice hockey team, Picker developed a relationship with another Team Impact child, one he's still connected to now.

"I didn't know about Team Impact before I came to college," said Picker. "I was just impressed by everything about it — impressed by their goal, impressed by how they run things, impressed by the participation around the country with big D1 schools, small D3 schools, club teams, varsity teams, everything in between. It's probably the best thing I've done at Muhlenberg in my four years here."

For Muhlenberg baseball and Bobby, the timing could not have been better.

"It just kind of came about that there was a boy in Team Im-

see **Team Impact** page 10

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
March 22 through March 29

Men and Women's Tennis
MUHLENBERG
vs
WASHINGTON COLLEGE
Saturday, Mar. 24 @ 1:00 p.m.
Chesterwood, MD

Softball
MUHLENBERG
vs
WASHINGTON COLLEGE
Saturday, Mar. 24 @ 1:00 p.m.
Cedar Creek Park, PA

Baseball
MUHLENBERG
vs
PENN STATE BERKS
Sunday, Mar. 25 @ 1:00 p.m.
Cedar Creek Park, PA

Men's Lacrosse
MUHLENBERG
vs
HAVERFORD
Wednesday, Mar. 28 @ 7:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

time for a little controversy....

‘Berg student announces run for mayor of Allentown

Meet Will Wamser – the sophomore determined to end the legacy of corruption left behind by the disgraced Ed Pawlowski

Read more on 3

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018
VOLUME CXL, ISSUE 16
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NEWS

The date for Muhlenberg’s Commencement Ceremony will be moving to May 17 to accommodate six students who will be attending the O. Henry Pun-Off in Austin, Texas.

read more on 2

ARTS & CULTURE

The Study Abroad office announced that Arezzo will no longer teach “the craft” to Muhlenberg students, claiming that students have “blasphemed the ancient art of commedia.”

read more on 7

OP/ED

I don’t know man, Brian’s been such a dick lately. It’s like, who does he think he is? I’m gonna say something, I swear to god.

read more on 8

SPORTS

Muhlenberg Athletics Department announces “Connecting Chew” initiative aimed at having athletes perform on stage an theatre students perform on the gridiron.

read more on 12

President pressured to lower tuition cost

Muhlenberg Board of Directors terrifies student body with conscious and sensible financial decision-making

By Ali Watson
Associate Sass Master

Earlier this week, President John I. Williams Jr. announced to the campus community, via carrier pigeon, that he will be lowering the tuition by 18.48 percent for the 2019 academic year.

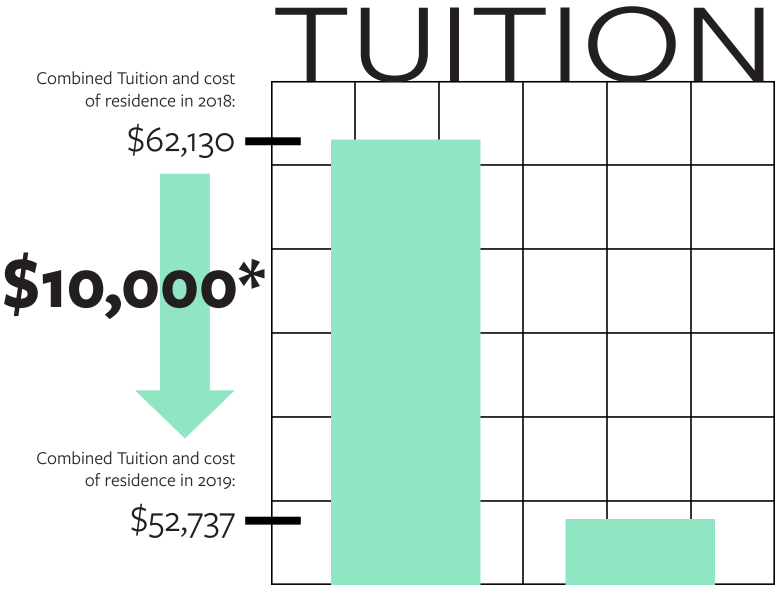
“If the bird hitting my dorm room window wasn’t enough of a surprise,” said Martin L. ‘21, “the message that was inside was even more shocking.”

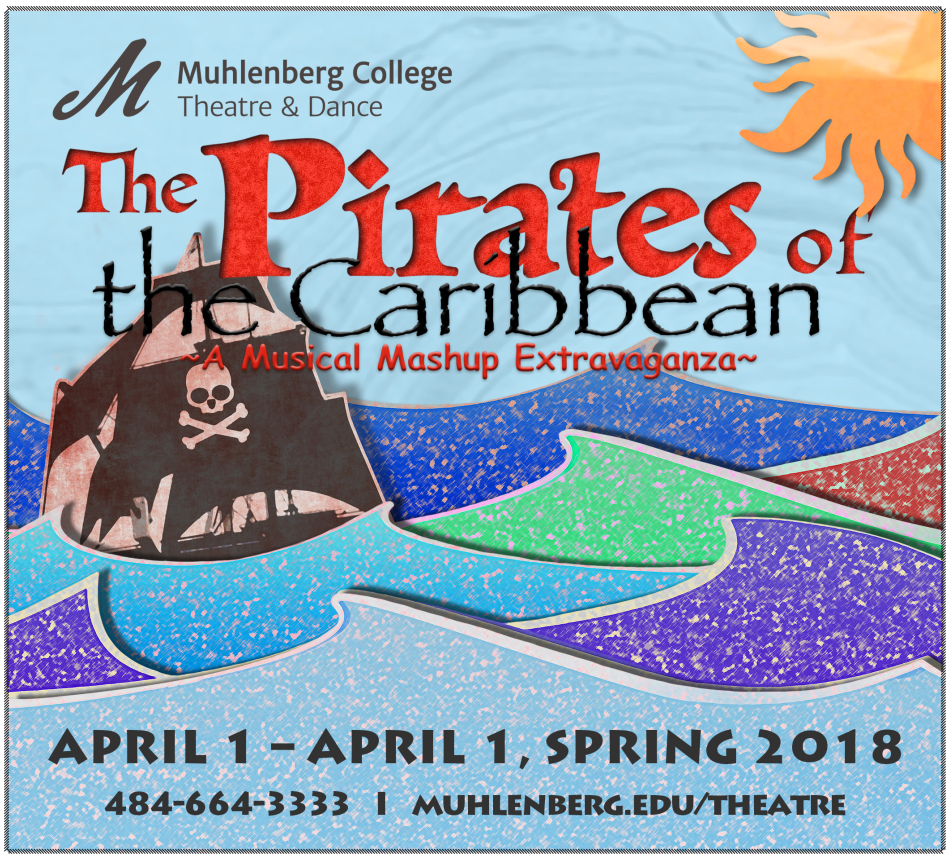
The news in tuition drop comes as a joyous relief to students who remained **pissed** off from the tuition raise from the previous academic year and the announcement from two weeks ago.

“I thought they were going to set fire to the buildings if this tuition cost didn’t go down,’ said Henry M. ‘19, “It’s really better for everyone that this was the decision that was made.”

The Board of Trustees and the President agreed that prioritizing the financial needs of the current student body was the smarter and more fiscally responsible decision. Now that the tuition has been made more af-

SEE **TUITION** PAGE 2

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Pirates change their tune

By Brooke Weber
Kate Bishop’s #1 Fan

If the Muhlenberg Theatre community is known for one show, it’s undoubtedly Gilbert and Sullivan’s 1879 opera *The Pirates of Penzance*. The school has taken on this massive production no less than five times, beginning in 1979 and continuing all the way up to 2016’s rendition, which marked theatre professor Charlie Richter’s second time directing the show. This coming fall, however, Richter will have the chance to reinvent this classic piece by adding a modern twist. Rather than reviving *The Pirates of Penzance*, Richter will be directing a never-before-seen staged version of *The Pirates of the Caribbean*, complete with stunning sets, new songs and even a special guest actor or two.

SEE **PIRATES** PAGE 5

*almost

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving your mom since 1883

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CORRECTION POLICY

Honest alert! Honest alert! The Muhlenberg Weekly really couldn't give less of a shit about its accuracy in reporting. I mean, have you read any of our content in the last two years? It's bad! But anyway, if you find some things that you don't like – if it's offensive, if it's just a lie, who cares — drop us a line (if you can find our office in Seegers - it's hidden so you can't). Our staff of easily offended quasi-reporters will look at your suggestion, cry on the inside, then cry on the outside, then muster up the courage to say we screwed up, but it'll be a lie.

ADVERTISING POLICY

Show us where the money is!! (Jerry Maguire) We want adds and we want them bad. Literally anything goes, we do not care as long as we are getting that sweet sweet sweet sweet cash. We love the green backs baby. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading. But we ain't never gonna use that right. But let's get real, we are hemorrhaging money. This is ship of friends, and it is sinking. Please pay us, we will put anything in this paper, literally anything. It's all about Benjamins baby.

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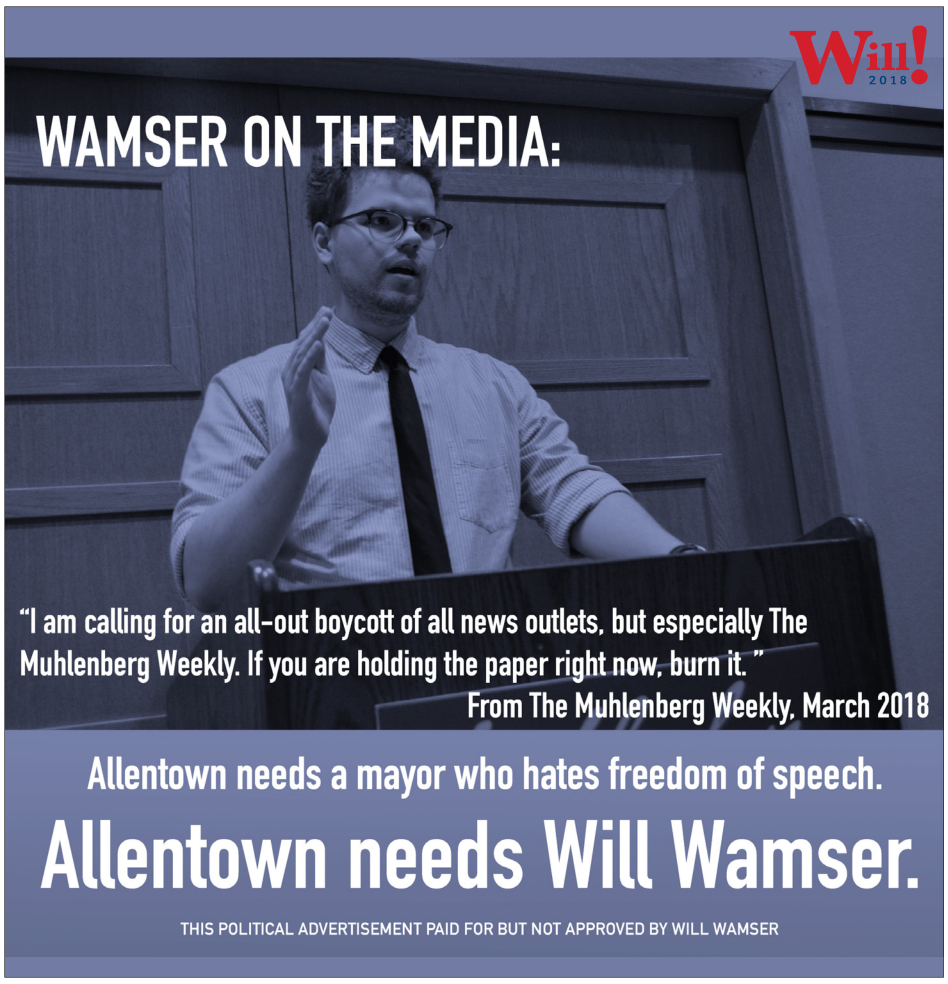
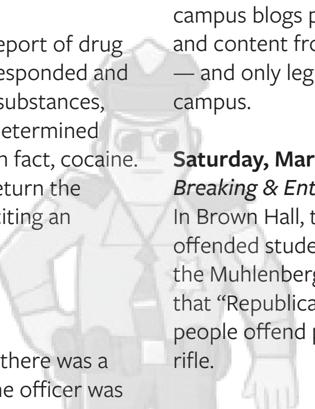

Will! 2018
WAMSER ON THE MEDIA:
"I am calling for an all-out boycott of all news outlets, but especially The Muhlenberg Weekly. If you are holding the paper right now, burn it."
From The Muhlenberg Weekly, March 2018
Allentown needs a mayor who hates freedom of speech.
Allentown needs Will Wamser.
THIS POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR BUT NOT APPROVED BY WILL WAMSER

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety



Tuesday, March 20
Theft - 11:15 am
In the Life Sports Center, there was a report of theft. All of Muhlenberg's athletic trophies were stolen. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that they, in fact, had none to begin with.

Noise Complaint - 10:15 pm
In the Muhlenberg Weekly office, there was a report of a noise complaint, as ten editors screamed following yet another rendition of "Time Warp."

Drug Violation - 11:48 pm
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of drug possession. Campus Safety responded and took possession of the illicit substances, where an extensive analysis determined that the substance was not, in fact, cocaine. Campus Safety declined to return the substances to the students, citing an ongoing investigation.

Wednesday, March 21
Sick Employee - 2:35 am
At the Campus Safety office, there was a report of a sick employee. The officer was found by Muhlenberg EMS running around in circles, sweating, screaming "I'm the king of the world," and was found with large amounts of a sugar-like residue on his nose.

Injured Student - 11:15 am
On Academic Row, there was a report of an injured student who slipped on ice. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that the campus had yet to be plowed because all of the Plant Operations employees were busy cleaning President Williams' property.

Suspicious Person - 7:07 pm
On the Front Lawn, there were several students found wearing "Bernie 2020" t-shirts collecting buckets of snowflakes to add to their club.

Thursday, March 22
Disorderly Conduct - 1:20 pm
In the Center for the Arts, there was an argument between two students. The students, an English major and a Theater major, were reportedly disputing which degree had less post-graduation value. The argument ended when a Dance major walked in the room.

Harassment - 9:30 pm
In GQ, there was a report of harassment. A Sodexo employee filed the complaint after a student had the audacity to ask for cheese on their cheeseburger.

Friday, March 23
Theft - 11:33 am
There was a report of theft after several campus blogs plagiarized multiple photos and content from the clearly superior — and only legitimate — news outlet on campus.

Saturday, March 24
Breaking & Entering – 8:15 pm
In Brown Hall, there was a report of an offended student. A student was upset that the Muhlenberg College Republicans claimed that "Republicans don't offend people, people offend people" while brandishing a rifle.

Sunday, March 25
Vandalism - 12:15 pm
In the Dining Hall, there was a report of vandalism and theft. The 'M' hanging over the fireplace was replaced with the old block 'M' logo. No students were willing to speak with Campus Safety about the crime because they were ecstatic with the change.

Missing Individual - 2:54 pm
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a missing performer, as the Muhlenberg Activities Council has yet to announce who will perform in the spring concert.

Check the Welfare - 2:55 pm
In Trexler Library, there was a report to check the welfare. A lacrosse player's teammate called Campus Safety because he was concerned that his friend had been trapped in the library. The student was located and said that he was unable to exit because he didn't know the difference between A, B, and C.

FROM **TUITION** PAGE 1

fordable, less students need financial aid.

Rather than engaging in the Bennett Hypothesis, the administration has decided to take an alternate approach.

To recap, the Bennett Hypothesis argues that the college should take as much as possible from the people who can pay for the cost of college, while the students who cannot will adapt through the use of aid and loans. From the increase in cash flow, aka endowment, the institution will have more money to spend on improvements. As a result of these changes, there will be an increase in competition between other universities, calling for more government subsidies. Therefore, demand in higher education increases as more people as eligible for said subsidies. So to make a long story short ... the college makes bank.

"The Board of Trustees reviews tuition recommendations developed through careful research and assessment by President Williams and his senior staff," explained Bill Keller, Executive Director of Communications.

According to the renowned news source, The Onion, college tuition dollars across the country go towards important student necessities like: "a big tall clock that goes *ding,* the ream of diploma paper, and an omnipresent collegiate scent." Unsurprisingly, all of these entities exist on Muhlenberg's campus.

However, tireless Weekly investigation found out specifically where our money was going — you could say we followed the money.

Approximately $420,000 was spent in the rebranding of Muhlenberg's infamous 'M,' $69,000 was appropriated to sponsor a commencement speaker no one has ever heard of, and $6,666 was put towards the Department of Underwater Basket Weaving in their hiring of another cis, white, straight male. Additionally $12,345 was used to acquire the limited edition Pepsi cups in GQ and Mule Express.

As the College takes its preliminary steps in improving spending decisions, our investigation now allows students to rest easy knowing that their tuition dollars are finally going towards both abstract improvements regarding the College's reputation and important changes on campus.

Move over Rockefeller

Campus is overflowing with oil

Melissa Reph & Ian Adler
Ace Reporter & Assistant to the Purveyor of Information

With the reveal of the Master Plan earlier this semester, the question on everyone's mind is certainly "where is the funding coming from?" Thanks to Dr. Jason Kelsey, Professor of Environmental Science, and his team of researchers, the answer has been found — underground.

Kelsey, Muhlenberg's resident geology and toxicology expert, spearheaded an investigation of the college's grounds in an attempt to "learn more about the soil," during the time they struck it rich.

"This area of Pennsylvania is known for its underwater history and huge basin of coal, limestone, shale and slate," said Kelsey. "The last thing I was expecting was all these melted dinosaurs to be right under our feet."

Bri Nemet '20 is an environmental science major and a first-time member of Kelsey's "Geology Club" research team. She was "totally floored" by the discovery, citing it as "the coolest thing that's ever happened in Geology Club."

"I know that industry and fossil fuels are huge here in Allentown," said Nemet. "But climate change is everywhere — we're running out of it [fossil fuels] and the search for more renewable energy is more important to scientists now more than ever. I just didn't think the Geology Club would be leading the charge."

Renewable energy and fossil fuels aren't two words that usually work *together* in a sentence. However, Kelsey claims the Geology Club's discovery of the oil reserve, nicknamed "Oasis," could change 'renewable' energy forever.

"You see, Oasis is fed by a pool of melting organisms thousands of feet within the Earth's mantle," said Kelsey. "I'm pretty sure it's continuously fed from the surface by land the total area of every country in the Paris Climate Accord. I mean, we're talking big here — you know, huge."

When asked how the pit could possibly be fed by so much of the earth's surface, Kelsey recounted his theory of "depth triangulation." Essentially, the reserves are, as Kelsey describes, "really deep, so they can reach more with angles." When asked "more what?" Kelsey simply replied "You know. *More.*"

"In addition to the wide access from depth triangulation, we [the Geology Club] think the pit might also be fed by marine whirlpools, *Xibalba* and whatever goes into landfills," added Nemet. "If we keep buying stuff and throwing it away, we'll be well-off for a good 70 more years, at least."

The Weekly reached out to Adam Ackerman '20, the treasurer of EnAcT, to see how the environmental group might feel about this discovery.

"Honestly, it makes my life a lot easier," Ackerman admitted. "If I don't have to worry about having to try to convince people about what is defined as 'climate change' and 'renewable resources,' then maybe I'll be able to get some decent sleep for once."

"As soon as I announced my findings I was approached by President Williams and Kent Dyer [Chief Business Officer and Treasurer]" Kelsey told The Weekly. "They didn't understand it at first, but when I showed them The Green, I think something clicked."

As it would happen, the best place to access this giant reserve is not under landfill-esque Prosser like many might assume, but rather the beloved Victor's Lament.

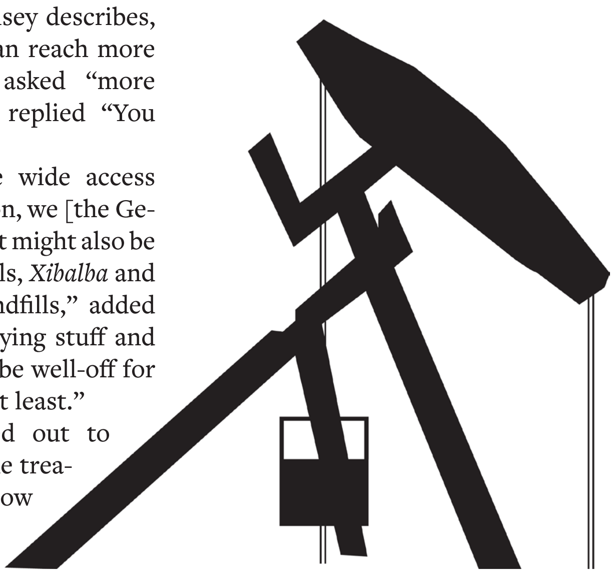
The College is already preparing to begin drilling under the landmark, although students need not worry about the steel sculpture's fate. In a lengthy analysis and cost survey, it was discovered that not only would Victor's Lament not be moved, but it would also save thousands of dollars after setting up the rig and getting a "month's worth of returns" on the good stuff.

The sculpture's unique design is allowing it to easily be repurposed into the oil drill.

"Students will be seeing lots of change coming to campus over the next couple years," President Williams said. "The repurposing of Victor's Lament is not only the beginning, but the catalyst."

The Geology Club is excited to start establishing more and more drills at other colleges, universities, elementary schools and parks all around the Valley. The club, with a recently approved budget of only 3.4 percent more than last year, will have the help of Lead Designer Mark di Suvero, a sculptor and the creator of "Victor's Lament."

"I'm not really concerned about the creativity behind it," weighed in Kelsey. "I trust Mark's vision and the people think it's too far down there, but it isn't. You just have to triangulate deep enough."



'Where there's a Will, there's a Wamser'

Sophomore launches campaign to become Allentown's mayor

Gregory Kantor
Editor Emeritus

In recent weeks, teenagers have lead a major charge to change our country's gun laws. At the same time, our community here in Allentown is reeling from a political corruption scandal that resulted in the resignation of its mayor, Ed Pawlowski. Perhaps now more than ever, we need young people in leadership positions, and Will Wamser, a student at Muhlenberg College asserts he is exactly that type of young person.

And just ahead of April 1, Wamser will officially announce his candidacy for the mayor of Allentown. City Council will consider Wamser alongside more than a dozen other candidates to become the new mayor on April 9.

Wamser, a sophomore at Muhlenberg College, is believed to be the first-ever current student to launch a candidacy for public office in the city's history. But Wamser does not view his relative political inexperience to be to his detriment.

"I have years and years of experience in management. I got my first job when I was 13 and it was as an assistant manager of my local Dairy Queen," says Wamser. From there, he has opened an additional 22 small business — including the famous From Fan to Flan: The Official Flan of the Philadelphia Eagles — each of which he still personally manages.

Wamser says his managerial style involves mutual respect, communication and collaboration, which is "exactly what every other candidate said about their managerial style." He nevertheless thinks it will help him work cooperatively and efficiently with City Council. "I also am gonna work with City Council and my employees as often as I can because it would be dumb for me to say otherwise."

But Wamser likes to point to the issues. He's penned opinion pieces in this very newspaper about an incredibly wide variety of topics — from heavy issues like vaccinations (Wamser is anti-vaccine because his children are awful: "Facts cannot be debated and the fact is that I am right in not vaccinating my kids") and milk control ("The milk epidemic has gotten out of hand at this point, and Congress refuses to do anything about it.") to more niche topics like dinosaurs not being extinct and surviving the perils of class registration.

For the campaign, some traditionally niche topics have taken center-stage, such as blighted properties and fire department staffing.

"My plan is to clean up and clear out the blighted properties. Allentown should be pretty and as the prettiest candidate, I believe I can bring us there. No other candidate is as concerned with their appearance as I am, which if Mayor will translate to being concerned with the appearance of Allentown," says Wamser. "If an owner of a bad property refuses to clean up or clear out, I will do everything within my power to ruin them. I have a zero tolerance policy for blemishes on both my face and this city and I will exile a negative property owner if need be."

The Allentown Fire Department, with call volumes decreasing over the past ten years, has likewise seen a decrease in staffing levels — down 24 firefighters since 2011. But Wamser does not seem concerned.

"The fire department is fine as is, I'm probably not gonna do anything with it," said Wamser. "Those boys know what they're doing and they've got good enough equipment, plus otherwise I'd probably have to raise taxes and that would suck, so I'm not doing that."

Speaking of taxes, Wamser is fully committed to George H.W. Bush's famous line: No new taxes.

"I come to the people with a single promise that I intend to keep: I will not raise any of your taxes and will try my best to lower as many as I can," says Wamser. "Many citizens of Allentown have a difficult time paying their taxes, and they shouldn't have to."

Wamser recognizes that this stance invites criticisms of identifying funding sources, to which he believes he has an innovative solution.

"I will be hosting numerous garage and bake sales on behalf of the city and if need be I am able to open a lemonade stand," said Wamser.

Like a well-seasoned politician, Wamser has already learned the art of adjusting his position to reflect the public's opinion, and he demonstrated this flexibility in his interview with The Weekly. Take, for instance, his stance on the concerns of ethics in City Hall following the end of Pawlowski's administration, certainly a pressing issue for the citizens of Allentown.

"Honestly, I don't really care about the ethics code. I get it Pawlowski did some bad stuff with some other guys but what am I gonna do about it?," said Wamser. "I mean this is all off the record right? It's not? Are you sure? Then that was a joke. I think we need a much more strict ethics code, I have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to any and all types of corruption."

At the end of the day, Wamser has a simple message to the Council as to why he should be mayor.

"I love Allentown, and though every candidate has said that, I am the only one with the bravery to say that they are in love with Allentown," said Wamser. "As an outsider I can actually appreciate what makes Allentown so beautiful, handsome, cute and charming, a quadruple threat — unlike Ed Pawlowski who has been taking Allentown for granted for years. Pawlowski doesn't deserve a beauty like Allentown, but I do. So please vote for me, I'm begging you."

Wamser encourages all of his supporters — on City Council or otherwise — to hit him up on Facebook or visit his newly launched website at wamserforallentown.muhlenbergweekly.com.

Actually, fruits is bad for you

Will Wamser
Future Mayor of Allentown

Wow, I know. Like, this is cray. So, basically, it turns out, fruits is bad for you. Which is wild! I always thought fruits was good for you. But now some scientists are saying that fruits is bad now. A study published by Muhlenberg College announced like a couple days ago says that actually, fruits is bad for you. The study showed that "fruits tricked us to think they were good because they're vegetables or some shit, but, like, they're not." And the study is not lying, I asked and it said no.

We know now that actually fruits is bad for you, but what does that even mean? What it comes down to is that fruits is full of sugar and corn syrup, and that stuff makes you fat and, according to the study, "fat makes you bad." That feels messed up, but a group of scientists figured out that fat makes you bad, so I guess it's true forever because of that. Thank you Muhlenberg College for proving that fruits make you fat and fats makes you bad!

I got an exclusive talk with the kid scientist who did a part of the study, but to be honest I straight up don't know her name because who cares. She told me — that's right it's 2016 y'all and girls can be nerds now apparently — that actually fruits is bad now and every time you eat some fruits you're like poisoning your body. There is something in fruits, a gene or a bug, that makes it so that the bad parts of the fruits go into your blood and I don't want to say what happens to the good stuff, if there is any. But basically, not to be crass, the good stuff leaves your body by being snot. Gross City population me, am I right?

That's why you got to treat your body like the temple it is, and you've got to pray at the altar of your temple pretty much every day. That's what I do at least and because of it, not to brag, I've stopped sweating entirely, I have a fine amount of teeth and my feet are two different sizes. So, yeah. I pray at the temple of my body by squeezing every muscle I can see until I pass out, and of course never eating fruits.

Plus, they mean all fruits when they say fruits. Apples? Yeah, thems bad. Oranges? You best believe it. Kiwis? Bruh, don't make me say it. And before you ask, yes even lemons is bad even though they're not technically fruits. Can you believe that? Lemons is bad, what is the world coming to? So now whenever I see someone eat like 12 lemons in half the time it would take a mortal man, it makes me feel sick instead of pumped up like it used to. There is only one fruit which contains any health benefits, the banana. The banana, while being hilarious for a little minion to say or a big man to slip on, is also the only healthy fruit and the healthiest thing you can eat of all time, but only the peel. The inside of the banana is too mushy to have healing effects, but the peel, if eaten raw enough, can result in 8 packs all over your body.

There's been a bunch of backlash to this study with many protesters claiming that actually fruits is good. I had made many attempts to get a statement from the protestors but I had to stop as I was receiving threats in the mail that were signed "John Williams" and then that was crossed out and under was written "Your Mom." The threats told me to stop trying to attack a study done by Muhlenberg or else I'll be the one to be attacked, so I stopped looking into the protesters for fear of my life.

I am forced to say that I am in complete agreement with the study. So, I am in complete agreement with the study. The study ends with advice for combating the negative effects of the fruit, which is a weird thing for a study to do, but it says to "destroy any and all fruit you see, the destruction will cake your hands with the blood of the fruit which will help you build a tolerance to the pain that fruit causes because actually fruits is bad for you." I don't know about all that, but I do know that I will never touch or see another fruit again and if I do I will straight up murder whosever fault it is.

So, like, yeah. That's pretty much it, actually fruits is bad for you. Thanks for reading. Bye!

Berg's Most Important Forgotten History

By Karl Schultz
Nic Cage Wannabe

As some of us may know, the College was recently featured on the Travel Channel's hit TV show "Mysteries at the Museum." The episode featured an artifact from the Trexler Library that was at the center of a fascinating chain of events. It was a book stolen by James Shinn, an FBI-wanted criminal that robbed libraries of their rare and valuable books. After robbing Muhlenberg's library, Shinn was caught and arrested, and his cache of books was returned.

While watching the episode, I was saddened that the story of the College's most important artifact was one that will never — but perhaps should never — be broadcasted.

Regardless of the fact that the campus brought down an FBI-wanted criminal and brought about legal reforms that still protect libraries across the nation, *this* story, now being told for the first time, oversaw a religious revolution, dangerous ocean voyages, the defeat of a world power, and the liberation of an entire country.

As many of us know, Henry Muhlenberg was a profound Lutheran Minister who is well-known in the religious community. He was, however, hiding a great secret. After the death of his father Nicolaus, Muhlenberg was tasked with sorting through his father's old papers and belongings. As he was rummaging through an old trunk, he came across an ancient scroll. Affixed with a wax seal bearing the latin phrase "*Haec fabula mendacium*," the paper had an almost heavenly glow which caught his eye. His curiosity naturally got the better of him and Muhlenberg broke the seal and opened the scroll. At once he realized what it was: a first draft of Martin Luther's 95 Theses. He dropped to his knees and immediately began to pray, for he knew he was in the presence of his religion's most treasured artifact. Muhlenberg began to read the Theses, but became even more exuberant when he came across something unfamiliar even after his years of studying Lutheranism: a 96th thesis.

Muhlenberg immediately knew it was to be his life's goal to keep this priceless object and the secret 96th thesis from falling into the wrong hands.

Only a few months later, Muhlenberg was called on by religious leader Gotthilf Francke to answer the call of the oppressed German Lutherans in the Pennsylvania colony. Muhlenberg quickly took this offer, as he knew moving the scroll across the Atlantic was vital to its survival. He moved to Philadelphia in 1742, started a congregation at Trappe Church, and, under the guise of renovation, built a major vault under the church to hide the scroll from prying eyes.

Muhlenberg was content with the safety of the scroll; however, the ever-growing talks of revolution put him at unease. The scroll remained interred under Trappe Church until it was clear that the revolution was to be at its door soon, and after the Continental defeat at Brandywine, Muhlenberg knew Philadelphia would soon fall and the scroll must be moved. Muhlenberg's son, John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, was in fact an officer in the Continental Army that was just defeated at Brandywine. Henry Muhlenberg wrote to his son and told him though he could ask no questions, he must come to the church and smuggle a document out of the city for him. Without hesitation, the then Brigadier General rushed to his father's aid, and brought the scroll back with him to Valley Forge.

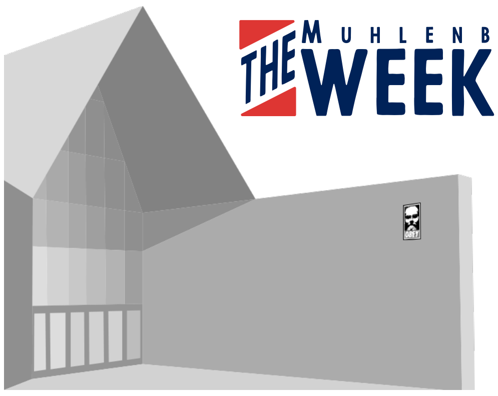
Trusting in his father, General Muhlenberg never opened the scroll, and likely died never knowing its contents. He did, however, fight bravely to protect its security. Though a vast majority of his story will never be told, those that knew the Major General well knew that he would give his life to protect a cause, and the task of his father was his most important cause. Though General Muhlenberg never told a soul of his father's mission, he was, however, forced to reveal what he knew to a commanding officer: the Commander-in-Chief himself.

Barely surviving the brutal winter, those in Valley Forge found warmth wherever possible. One such way was to burn any unimportant documents. After returning from morning muster, Muhlenberg returned to his quarters and was appalled to find his correspondence, books, and any paper goods had been taken to sustain the camps' many fires. He immediately knew the scroll had been taken, and furiously ran to General Washington himself to demand answers and plead for its return. After storming into his cabin, Muhlenberg found Washington sitting by a fire, scroll in hand. Muhlenberg began to talk but Washington stopped him. Washington revealed he had read the document, and he quietly returned the scroll to Muhlenberg, telling him to protect it with the veracity with which he protects the colonies themselves.

And protect it he did. Muhlenberg fought with more tenacity than any other soldier in the Continental Army, and, upon his retirement, received a promotion to Major General. Still not knowing of its contents, Muhlenberg kept the scroll safe, and, until his death in 1807, kept his own family in the dark. On his death bed, Muhlenberg told his grandson, Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg that it would now be his task to defend this document. Much like his grandfather, Frederick accepted his duty without hesitation or question. Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg would grow up to become the first president of Muhlenberg College. Muhlenberg passed the responsibility of the document on to each successive college president.

The statue of General Pete on the College Green was erected in 1942 in remembrance of a brave American soldier whose family is the namesake of the college. Though this is true, the true heart of the statue bares a secret the man himself also carried. Though much like his predecessors in not knowing its true contents, President Levering Tyson knew the importance of the scroll to General Muhlenberg, and knew its final resting place should be one of significance. Moving the scroll from its home in the treasurer's vault, Tyson commissioned a statue to be built commemorating the great General. While it was being built, he secretly placed the scroll into the chest of the Muhlenberg statue. A fitting resting place at the heart of the man who devoted his life to its protection.

So now whenever you walk past the statue of General Pete, know that the statue not only recognizes the achievements of the Pennsylvania Germans and the wartime victories of one man, but also that it represents a story of intrigue, bravery, love, and unwavering trust spanning generations.



> "Now then, let's come right down in here and put some nice big strong arms on these trees. Tree needs an arm too. It'll hold up the weight of the forest. Little bird has to have a place to set there. There he goes..."
>
> - Bob Ross

Richter to direct *The Pirates of the Caribbean: A Musical Mashup Extravaganza*

FROM **PIRATES** PAGE 1

This coming fall, however, Richter will have the chance to reinvent this classic piece by adding a modern twist. Rather than reviving *The Pirates of Penzance,* Richter will be directing a never-before-seen staged version of *The Pirates of the Caribbean,* complete with stunning sets, new songs and even a special guest actor or two.

The musical is certainly shaping up to be a unique one student composers are already assisting Richter in crafting composite works based on the music of both *Penzance* and *Caribbean*, combining the distinct flavors of the two into one strange and intriguing piece. Gwen Wilkie '20, one of these composers, has found that her biggest challenge is finding a harmonious blend between the operatic style of *Penzance* with the jauntiness of Caribbean's mostly orchestral score.

"Yeah, this has been kind of a weird experience for me," said Wilkie, looking slightly confused as she sat in a practice room surrounded by loose sheets of music. "I want to take the melody of 'Yo Ho' and put it over the music of 'Oh! false one, you have deciev'd me,' but it's just not quite working. I'm definitely not going to give up, though, because earlier Max [Kasler '20] and I wrote this incredible mashup of 'Poor wand'ring one' and 'Why Is the Rum Gone,' so I know I'm gonna hit on something good soon."

Despite these trying struggles, Wilkie is excited for the final product.

"I think this is definitely going to be one of the most memorable mainstages in recent history," Wilkie said. "I think it'll take the audience a while to get used to all their favorite characters singing in the style of Gilbert and Sullivan, but they'll get on board once Barbossa does 'I am the very model of a modern Major-General.' This show makes an important statement about the ability of old shows to be adapted for contemporary audiences, and even though we couldn't get Orlando Bloom, I think people will really enjoy it."

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Theatre

Alan Mendez '17, returns to the Empie Stage to reprise his role as the Pirate King in *The Pirates of the Caribbean: A Musical Mashup Extravaganza,* alongside a guest costar.

Though Bloom may not be making an appearance on the Muhlenberg stage, Richter has invited a guest actor to perform the lead role of Captain Jack Sparrow. This decision to cast outside of the pool of student actors was initially met with protest from the theatrical community, and several students, including Judit McJudit '19, loudly voiced their opposition to this choice.

"I think that as long as there are capable actors on this campus who already attend the school, there should be no reason that we cast random people as leads," said McJudit. "People here are talented, and we should be able to showcase that and gain experience while we're still here learning and bolstering our techniques before we're thrust into the real world to try our hand at this. Also, the guy they picked is super creepy."

McJudit's viewpoint is certainly shared by many involved in Muhlenberg theatre, although there's no denying that this guest actor, whose name I can't seem to find no matter where I look, does bear an uncanny resemblance to the main character of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* film franchise. Each of his actions, from his drunken stumbling to his dubious British accent, seems to perfectly evoke Captain Jack Sparrow's carefree lifestyle. When approached for an interview, however, the guest actor merely muttered a bit and shuffled away.

Whatever your view on casting procedures, you are sure to find something in this show for you. Whether it's the charm of a traditional operatic score or the beauty of the as-yet-unbuilt sets, this show is bound to make you want to jump right up on stage and join in a pirate shanty with the eclectic ensemble, which will include several characters from *Penzance* as Easter eggs hidden among the Elizabeth Swanns and Will Turners.

Stage manager Pendleton Von Trapp '19 recalls the complex process of putting together the final cast list.

"See, we weren't sure if we wanted a Pirate King or not, because we thought the audience might get confused, seeing as there are many pirates already present on the stage," Von Trapp said. "But we knew we wanted a Ruth to throw some spice in there, and we definitely like what she brings to the show, even though she's just kind of running around and peeking behind rocks the whole time. Hey, is it ok if we wrap up this interview soon? They're getting ready to airlift the ship in through the ceiling."

After months and months of preparation, this show is sure to be an incredible one. Run, don't walk the plank, to get your tickets now for *The Pirates of the Caribbean: A Musical Mashup Extravaganza,* playing from October 32 to 35, 2018 in Empie Theatre.

Slip and slide: Center for the Arts remodels due to architect's vision

By Lauren Mazur
Observer-on-Ice

This weekend the unknown purpose behind the design for the Baker Center for the Arts was revealed. Through the collaborative efforts of various departments throughout Muhlenberg's campus, including Music and English, the architect's true vision for the CA, built in the year 1976 by the world-renowned architect Philip Johnson, was revealed.

"It has come to our attention that the original intent and purpose behind Baker Center was not as a building for the academic arts, but actually as interactive performance art for students and faculty to interact with regularly," stated visiting professor Dr. Klein. I asked Klein to further elaborate on the exact nature that these changes—what is this interactive experience exactly? Klein continues:

"It was meant as a tilted, ever-moving artwork. Even when standing still—people and objects are meant to be unsettled. Art needs to affect its audience—otherwise it fails to create an environment. The intended landscape is lost."

By "intended landscape" of course, Klein refers to the emphasis on instability. This had been originally interpreted as simply slanting the building in a particular way to feature the various art pieces. It is now understood that the slant incorporated in the building was originally meant to function as a slide; everyone entering the building is meant to feel unbalanced and unstable.

Therefore, it is important to freeze the flooring of the CA to further embrace and fully incorporate the architecture's purpose. Rather than students and faculty simply *walking* to their classrooms, they're expected to slide with the ice below their feet.

With the installation of this in-door ice rink, several other variations need to be implemented. The artwork featured will now need to be made three-dimensional and nailed to the walls for individuals to use as they *slide* through the building. Preparations for these changes have already been implemented, including several temperature conditions to maintain the in-door ice-scape. Few concerns have been brought in regards to the upcoming changes, but Dr. Klein wanted to reassure the intentions and necessity behind these additions to the Center for the Arts.

"It's important to understand the essence behind following the architect's intention. Yet, it also brings up the importance of artist intent versus audience interpretation. Where do we draw the line between fulfilling the role of the artist's vision and allowing for the individual's right to their own thoughts and feelings towards the piece? Is art the creation of only a singular entity or does it transfer to observers as well? Is their reaction part of the art as well? Should they be? The fact that this enterprise brings up such questions proves the changes to be at least valuable and worth pursuing further."

Of course, these changes will not be official until well into the summer, in which classes can be moved to allow for the installation to be completed.

It's hopeful that the construction will be completed by the time students return for Fall 2018 courses.

Theatre du Soliel:

An out-of-this-world entertainment experience

By Brooke Weber
Kate Bishop's #1 Fan

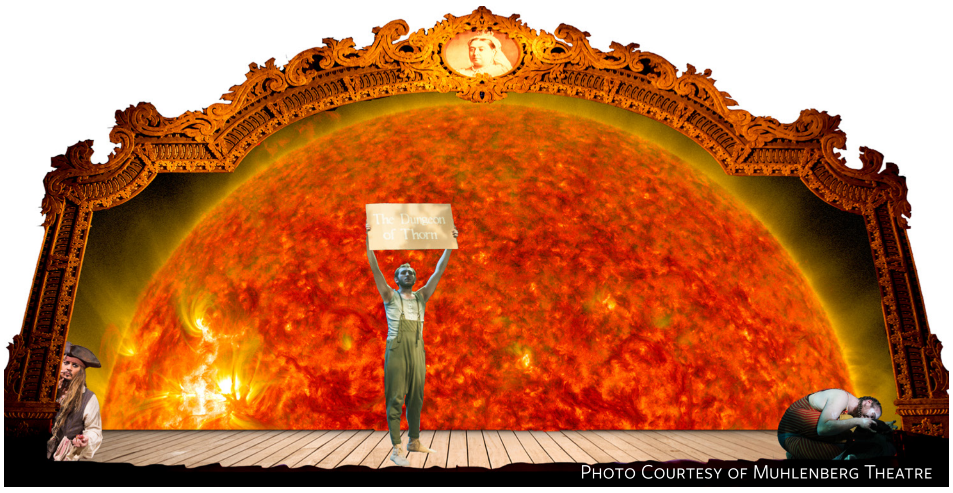


Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Theatre

The Weekly recieved an exclusive copy of the first concept art for the College's Theatre du Soleil, set to debut Spring 2050.

From the large expanse of the Empie stage to the cozy Recital Hall, at Muhlenberg College, there's a home for every art form you can imagine. Still, though, the College's recent Master Plan has announced that there might just be a new addition to these already established stages in the next few years. This plan proposes a theater with a backdrop entirely made of glass, one that would allow for natural sunlight to stream in whilst still permitting audiences to remain mercifully indoors.

But why stop there? Just a few short hours ago, the administration revealed updated blueprints that seek to spread Muhlenberg's theatrical gospel to infinity and beyond.

Yes, that's right – recent revisions to the Master Plan now include contracts to build a theater on the sun.

At first, one might think this move superfluous and absurd. How is the school meant to build on a gaseous surface? How did Muhlenberg even obtain a slice of precious sun-real-estate? And, most importantly, how are student performers and audience members meant to get to their stage in space?

Thankfully, the Master Plan provides the answer to this final query: rocket ships. Our very own President Williams has signed off on the purchase of three state-of-the-art 100-passenger spacecraft that will transport sets, props, actors, crew members, and audiences alike to the "Theater du Soleil," as the project has been branded. And just where will the money to fund this project come from? Well, let's just say that the 3.4% tuition increase isn't for nothing.

When told about the College's new endeavor, students had a wide variety of reactions. Musical theatre major Jilliam Fronken '19 expressed concern about the workings of casting equity on a gaseous star.

"I mean, I guess I just don't get it," said Fronken. "How are they going to choose who gets to perform up there? Is it going to discriminate against students who haven't been to space camp? I know I can barely perform when the stage lights are all up in my face – it feels like they're melting me. What if someone *literally* gets melted? I'm definitely writing a strongly worded letter as soon as tech week and scene performances and a capella rehearsals and final concerts are over."

Despite the fact that Fronken's apprehension is shared by many students, the Master Plan actually includes pre-anticipated responses to several of her worries. Under the section entitled "Is This Really Going to Happen? Really?" is a carefully allotted budget that makes provisions for customized, heat-resistant space suits that will double as costumes and six months of astronaut training for aspiring performers and crew members. All of this will be supplied for students at an extremely discounted price – whereas it might once have costed millions of dollars for students to rent or purchase their own space gear, the College is prepared to offer packages that can simply be added onto a student's Dining Dollar debt at the end of the school year.

These irresistible incentives have drawn some students to sign up for the Theatre du Soleil pre-registration program, including prospective acting/directing/design/stage management/performance studies major Jark Doobler '27.

"I just thought I'd get a head start on all the preparation," Doobler said. "I'm extremely serious about my theatrical career, and I've known it's what I want to do since I was cast in *Into the Woods* at age six months. It's almost like I was literally born to do this, you know? People have warned me about how difficult it is to work on the sun, how rare the job opportunities out there can be, but I'm up for the challenge."

Rumors are already circulating as to the content of the theatre's first performance – some think it will be a fully staged traditional musical, whilst others seem convinced it will be an experimental piece that makes use of the sun's natural spectacular qualities, allowing actors to interact with solar flares and the like. Here at The Weekly, though, we have been given exclusive access to the set list of a potential showcase of sorts, a medley of musical theatre songs that will be performed by the first batch of licensed Theatre du Soleil cast members.

The medley will include songs such as "Sun is Gonna Shine" from Steve Martin's 2016 Broadway show *Bright Star* and "Let the Sun Shine In" from last year's Summer Music Theater mainstage, *Hair*, as well as other incredible selections.

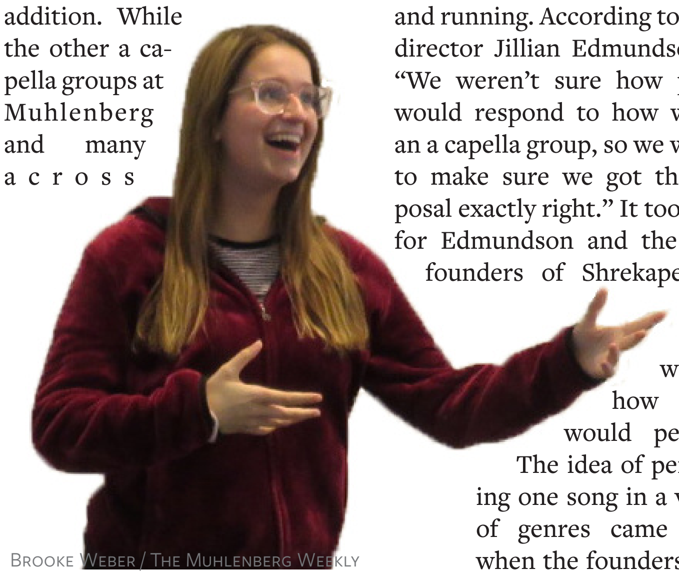
Don't miss your chance to walk amongst – or on, as it were – the stars when the Theatre du Soleil opens in Spring 2050.

Muhlenberg welcomes new a capella group

Ellen Powers
Cameron Diaz Impersonator

Beginning rehearsals a few weeks ago, Muhlenberg's newest a capella group made their performance debut last week. Although this addition of an a capella group may not be surprising to members of the Muhlenberg community, this group is unlike any of the others, which makes it an interesting and one-of-a-kind addition. While the other a capella groups at Muhlenberg and many across the country typically perform a variety of songs within one genre, this new a capella group is unique. Calling themselves Shrekapella, they only perform one song, Smashmouth's infamous hit "All Star." However, they perform "All Star" in an impressive 15 genres, ranging from metal to country to reggae.

Since Shrekapella is so unconventional in nature, it took a great deal of effort to get it up and running. According to music director Jillian Edmundson '21, "We weren't sure how people would respond to how we ran an a capella group, so we wanted to make sure we got the proposal exactly right." It took time for Edmundson and the other founders of Shrekapella to come up with how they would perform.



Brooke Weber / The Muhlenberg Weekly

The idea of performing one song in a variety of genres came about when the founders, originally as a joke, decided to put "All Star" as one of the songs in their repertoire, but they all had different visions for the sound of the group. "We all had different genres that we enjoyed singing in, so we decided to combine them and make arrangements for 'All Star' in as many genres as we could think of," said Edmundson.

Performances by Shrekapella seem like they will be enjoyable and exciting for audiences, particularly because of their interactive element. Since they can never be exactly sure what genres of music their audience members at each performance will be interested in, the members of Shrekapella actually take requests for certain genres from their audiences. In addition to having unique musical arrangements for each genre of "All Star" that they perform, Shrekapella also adds costumes, props, or other elements to some of the genres to add to the humor of their performance. They wear cowboy hats for the country arrangement and do a kickline and jazz hands for the showtune arrangement, just to name a few. Shrekapella member Drew Adamczak '21 explained why they add these elements: "We're all aware of how ridiculous the idea of an a capella group singing Smashmouth is, so we decided to run with it and make it as funny as we can. We want our audiences to have as much fun watching us as we have performing for them."

It seems that the excitement of audience members for Shrekapella's performances is shared by the group's members. As one of the group's soloists Daliah Bernstein '21 described, "I'm an avid fan of the Shrek movies, so I was ecstatic when auditions for Shrekapella were announced. We get to sing a song that so many people know and love, so I think the Muhlenberg community will be excited to see our renditions of it. What's even better is knowing that we're appealing to a wide audience because not only do we perform 'All Star' in so many genres, but also because the internet has helped the song gain even more popularity. It's really been such a fun experience."

Shrekapella seems to be giving its members another opportunity for creativity, as well as being a laid-back source of confidence. As Adamczak added, "I've never been involved in any kind of group that sings in front of people because I wasn't confident in my singing ability, but everyone in Shrekapella is so kind and encouraging, so I feel a lot more comfortable. I'm also able to learn a lot about harmonizing and singing in different genres, which I knew virtually nothing about before."

While Muhlenberg's pre-existing a capella groups are continuously successful, the addition of Shrekapella has promise to provide humorous and entertaining performances for the Muhlenberg community. Still, Shrekapella is unlike any other a capella group, and it is exciting to see how Muhlenberg students came together to provide such a unique opportunity for everyone on campus.

ART: What isn't it?

By Ethan Forrer

Coming up this Easter, while everyone should be away for break, the CA will be opening its special new exhibit for just one day only. Luckily, I was given the opportunity to see this new exhibit while it was still being set up, so I'm here to tell you about what to look for and what you should all be excited this coming first of April.

This revolutionary art exhibit features a never-before-witnessed, post-modern representation of modern representational art by leaving all interpretation up to the viewer. Without title, plaque, description, artist or anything to actually signify that it is, in fact, part of this prestigious break-through within the world of art, some of the sculptures could be missed by your untrained eye — luckily, you have me to help you out along the way.

First up on the docket is this highly avant-garde piece I have dubbed "*This One Brick I Found in the Wall*." Other than this being an obvious reference to Pick Floyd's critically acclaimed song "Another Brick in the Wall," this display portrays the secret uniqueness behind the way Muhlenberg constructed the wall. While most other colleges that don't have the nation's best theatre program would form their bricks individually before putting them together to make a wall, Muhlenberg has flipped this archaic thinking on its head by first erecting the brick wall and then carving the individual bricks into the wall. This is evident due to the particular rectangular-ness of this brick that would only have been feasible if the aforementioned technique was properly implemented. Truly a bricky effort for everyone involved.

It is safe to extrapolate that this exhibit should be on your must-see list unCONDITIONally

The next stop on this art-subway-train tour across the art countryside is the air conditioner panel, found in one of the walls. It goes without saying that this is undoubtedly grate and it breathes some fresh air into the exhibit. You can really understand the emotions that the artist vented through for this piece. Truly a chilling experience. It is safe to extrapolate that this exhibit should be on your must-see list unCONDITIONally (pun: intended).

Any humanities teacher will tell you that anything within a created medium is there for a reason, but it is the next exhibit that makes even myself, the expert, question whether it really has a message. I am, of course, referring to the mythically rare and elusive, EXIT sign. Why is it there? What is it trying to tell me? Where am I? Why am I there? These are just a few of the many questions that surface to my cerebral cortex whenever I find myself in the presence of this otherworldly artwork. I cannot help but imagine that this EXIT sign is trying to communicate some message of great importance, but every time I mentally approach this ever-hidden fundamental truth, it eludes me like the early worm eludes the proverbial bird. If only this EXIT sign could give me some sign as to the meaning for its — and consequently my — existence, but I know deep down that it is only a mere pipe dream. Some anomalies in this world are better left unexplained, like the Loch Ness Monster, Scooby-snacks, how Google really works, what Victor is actually lamenting about and of course, the meaning behind this one EXIT sign I found in the CA.

The next exhibit was in fact the crowning jewel of this event, and as such, it was surrounded by a magical electro-static field that prevented me from using any electronics to capture the image of the metaphysically perfect display of artistic ascension. If I had to sum up this piece in just two words I would have to say "mud footprint," but this would be a gross oversimplification of a three-dimensionally layered, complex thought conception. The care and detail that this artist put into making this dirt stain on the ground was evident to me from the beginning. This revolutionary artistic magician had the foresight necessary to avoid losing any of the precious material they had pianistically harvested from the outside on any of the numerous foot cleaning mats that are placed diabolically around the compound to seriously restrict free liberal thought. This exhibit, much like the patented 3-point dunk shot, could've only been possible after figuratively millions were spent on shoe wear. This piece of artwork will not only be a dirty footprint on the floor of the CA, but also a dirty footprint on art history for semesters to come.

These are but a small appetizer to whet your appetite for the full reveal of the show, which will take place during break. The exposition is brought to us by the anonymous benefactors to Muhlenberg's art's center program, and it was paid for by whatever was left of the budget after the Master Plan received their required donations. Don't be a fool this April ... embrace the post-past modern world with this untitled and unregulated voyage around the world, or at least to America.

BUTZ LOBBIES

Ethan Forrer // The Muhlenberg Weekly

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/
OPINIONS&EDITORIALS

Editorial

Trumping Commencement

Last Week, The Weekly helped break the news of commencement speakers. But in our haste, an important name was left off the list — Trump.

Through tireless investigation (that was not found in a torn up envelope outside of the Communications office) The Weekly has uncovered that President of the United States Donald J. Trump is scheduled to be the surprise commencement speaker, and that Dr. Robert Loeffler '70 is just a decoy. The information was not released to the public, should, in the words of President Trump, who wrote the memo himself, "second amendment people — I don't know" take advantage of the situation.

Yet the ability to host a president on such a small campus is an honor that should not be passed up, and in return the highest honor this college can offer should be bestowed upon him — a tuition, stress and tear-free degree.

The current plan shows only that he is invited to speak. However, Trump was given this exact honor — the title of speaker and honorary degree recipient — at Lehigh University in June 1988.

Now, thirty years later, the students and faculty have disappointingly been trying to revoke and the board of Trustees have heroically stood behind. Students and faculty mistakenly believe they need to rescind the degree because, in the words of Dr. Michael Raposa, they "don't want Lehigh to be identified with the kind of sexist, racist, and Islamophobic utterances" the president has made.

However, as Fox News has proven time and time again, no such remarks exist. Only a few select, satellite news organizations such as New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN and MSNBC, as well as local fake news outlets like The Morning Call and Allentown WFMZ 69 News have dared label his remarks as such.

In addition to undoubtedly motivating graduates,with his wisdom in bankruptcy, real estate mongeling, prostitutes, and small hands, Trump also would inspire hope in those in unfortunate circumstances that leave them unable to walk the stage with their friends. Because, as Trump assures us, he "loves the poorly educated."

So Donnie, if you're reading this, know you have the support of the only non-fake news organization on campus. We look forward to seeing you in a few months.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

We do not know how the editorials get in here. Whoever does it does not sign it and no one has come forward. If you have any information about this ghost writer please contact us right now. We have editors waiting for your calls. We can't pay you in money, but we can pay you in gum. But seriously folks, I'm scared.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

You never write anymore. Is it something we said? What ever it is we are sorry. Please write us a letter, all of our editors are sitting wistfully at the mailbox. We miss you and we love you.

OPINION POLICY

If there's an opinion, it's ours. We own the opinions of every student living or dead. We feed on opinions and require them for sustenance. Opinions are for eating and this paper is for reading, xoxo gossip girl.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

Don't submit. We don't want your stuff. If you had anything to offer us, you'd already be working for us. I'm sorry to say, but that's just how it works honey. So go back to smoking weed and eating your "munchies." We hate you.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

Found in the unpublished drafts of the fanfic writer
Nickelrobin3-21

Batty @ 'Berg!

Her alarm clock went off as usual and Steph flailed her arms out in an attempt to shut off the wail. She rolled over with a groan and rolled right off of her bed onto the floor. Now, she was used to a losing battle with gravity but normally her bed was much larger, and not three feet off the ground.

Stephanie was left staring up at an unfamiliar ceiling. Not an altogether new experience with all the safe houses the Bats had scattered through Gotham and her mild tendency to get knocked out during fights. Being Batgirl was an experience, but at least it was familiar.

Slowly she remembered why exactly she was here in this dorm room and not at home still in her queen-sized bed. Steph pushed herself up onto her elbows before slowly getting to her feet. There was a suspicion that Poison Ivy had gotten a job as a biology professor at some small liberal arts school in Pennsylvania. Steph had been sent undercover to check it out. She packed up her books into her backpack, making sure to include a couple of her signature goop-a-rangs just for good measure. She ran out of her dorm, knowing that she was going to need to get breakfast and then find her classes.

Steph was a little overwhelmed by the dining hall, it looked suspiciously like the Waynes' ski chalet. At Gotham U you never left your bags unattended, the last thing you wanted was for someone to slip Joker Venom into it. Yet here the tables were littered with coats and backpacks, even phones and wallets. Steph cringed but did the same before wandering towards the kitchen.

The menus showed the different stations' offerings, but Steph's gaze narrowed in on the waffle makers. She excitedly filled both with batter and waited. Piling the two waffles onto a plate Steph headed back to her seat, mildly surprised to see her belongings still there.

Steph was searching for her first class, stumbling into a stairwell that looked more like a closet at first glance. Only to freeze. Steph thought she was staring down at a polar bear in a glass case. She walked slowly down the stairs, it was definitely a giant taxidermy polar bear. Grabbing her phone Stephanie took a quick picture of it to send to Cass and Tim. It looked just like something out of the Penguin's Iceberg Lounge.

Steph was thoroughly turned around at this point though and walked out the door into the bright morning. She double checked the schedule Babs had made up for her, looking at the building and room number again. Her brow wrinkled as she frowned. Steph couldn't think of where the building was. She knew that she had just come out of New Sci and the next one over was Trumbower but wasn't Shankweiler supposed to be in the middle of them? With a sigh Steph headed back toward the front of the building to try and find the class again.

By the afternoon Steph had twelve essays all due the next day; in spite of only having been in two classes that day and neither of them meeting until the day after. She had also found herself signed up for six clubs and less than zero clues as to whether or not Ivy was hiding out at the school.

Realizing that she had about two hours before she had back-to-back meetings and then really needed to start searching for Ivy, Steph decided to start on at least one of those essays. By roughly midnight she was done with all of her scheduled appointments and pushed off the essays because she was here to find Poison Ivy, not write about the intersectionality of Disney movies and Plato's Republic. So, Steph decided to suit up and try to find some dirt.

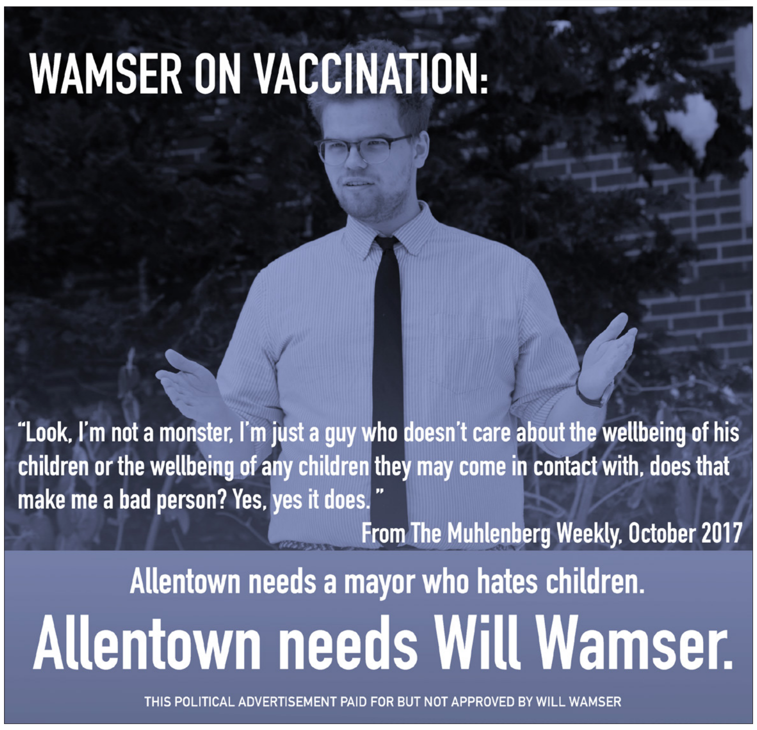
The only problem about a campus with green spaces and no buildings taller than four stories was that Steph couldn't grapple across campus like she would at home. And Batgirl just walking around was not a sight she needed on the internet. So she decided to scale the ridiculous steel structure that stood in the center of campus and perch herself there.

Steph spent about an hour up there, watching for suspicious activity when she saw groups of people making their way to the arts building across the street. Curious, she followed and managed to make her way up to the sloped, glass roof. She watched as beneath her the groups gathered into one large crowd before forming a circle. Not sure what to expect but always prepared for the worse, Steph readied a batarang. Suddenly though she heard singing. That was the final straw. Steph was done. So over this whole mission Batman could send Tim cause she was giving up and going home.

Flinging open the doors she swept in, her cape billowing dramatically behind her and the group of students fell silent in shock.

"Go to sleep! You people are ridiculous! I'm exhausted and I'm awake until five am beating up muggers every night! You people are just absurd! Rehearse at a normal hour, drink some flipping water, and for pete's sake stop overscheduling yourselves," Steph yelled, gesturing wildly before she turned on her heel and headed back to Gotham which seemed a lot less crazy after the day she had.

Rating:	General Audiences
Archive Warning:	**No Archive Warnings Apply**
Category:	Gen
Fandoms:	DCU (Comics), Batgirl (Comics), Batman - All Media Types, Batman (Comics)
Characters:	Stephanie Brown, Batgirl, Pamela Isley, Joker, Cassandra Cain, Black Bat, Tim Drake, Red Robin, Oswald Cobblepot, Penguin, Barbara Gordon, Oracle, Bruce Wayne, Batman
Additional Tags:	Alternate Universe - College/University, Alternate Universe - Canon Divergence, Muhlenberg College - Freeform, Implied/Referenced Poison Ivy/Harley Quinn, Waffles, Steph is a Good Bro, Slice of Life, Batgirl is still Batgirl, but also not, Bat Family, Mom!Babs, Minor Angst, College shenanigans, polar bears, disney movies


WAMSER ON VACCINATION:
"Look, I'm not a monster, I'm just a guy who doesn't care about the wellbeing of his children or the wellbeing of any children they may come in contact with, does that make me a bad person? Yes, yes it does."
From The Muhlenberg Weekly, October 2017
Allentown needs a mayor who hates children.
Allentown needs Will Wamser.
THIS POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR BUT NOT APPROVED BY WILL WAMSER

A Day in the Life of President John Williams

Matt Beaune
Will's Friend

In today's society, there are a handful of true visionaries that have a meaningful impact on the world they live in, and there is one similarity that they all share: being masters of time management. Our very own President John Williams is no different. In an effort to offer you, the humble reader, a chance to get a glimpse into the daily life of this titan of a man, The Muhlenberg Weekly has sent me to spend a day with President Williams and report on what we experienced.

Per our previous correspondence, I arrived promptly at 5:00 am to begin my day-long interview with President Williams. It wasn't until around 8:30 when President Williams stumbled into the living room where I had been waiting. He said that he slept through his alarm, although I did not hear a single alarm since the time I arrived. After a quick sponge bath, President Williams was ready to start the day.

Around 8:50, we sat down for a small catered breakfast from Sodexo, which is what I'm told President Williams eats every day. I enjoyed half of a grapefruit and a cup of black coffee, and he had a dozen eggs, uncooked and in the shell. After breakfast, he took me on a tour of his magnificent home. Some parts stood out, particularly his collection of model airplanes mounted next to his pilot's license, the unofficial schematics of the underground parking lot that he scribbled on a greasy dining hall napkin, and the view of his award winning sidewalk that is always shoveled by Plant Ops before Academic Row when it snows.

After the tour, we went outside to check his mail. In his mailbox was a single magazine entitled "Teen Slang Quarterly." Apparently he uses this magazine to stay "hip" and "jive." Expecting a day full of meetings, we arrived early to his office. His assistant met us at the door and and confirmed his appointments privately. However, I did catch a quick look at her notepad, which said he had a 4 hour nap scheduled from 2-6.

Around 11:45, we arrive at the dining hall for lunch. As we approached "Mangia Mangia," President Williams made eye contact with Norm. President Williams said, "Hi Norm, I'll have the usual." In response to this, Norm puts a Winnie-The-Pooh style honey pot on the counter. President Williams picks it up and says "Oh bother."

After lunch, President Williams said "Alright Jerry, let's go back home." I should point out that he has called me Jerry all day. When I tried to correct him, he just replied "Yeet!" When we left the dining hall, President Williams took me to the bell-tower in Haas, where he shot a t-shirt cannon at the bell to signal the change of the hour. The t-shirts said "William's Family Reunion 1994" and they all had noticeable coffee stains.

We returned to President William's house at around 1:45, where he showed me his basement, in which was a direct recreation of Scrooge McDuck's money-swimming pool, diving board and all. At 2:00 on the dot, an alarm goes off on President William's phone, at which point he told me that he had a very important business meeting and we could continue my reporting afterwards. I then saw him walk outside and lay down on his hammock, and he loudly snored for the next four hours, just like his schedule had indicated. Like clockwork, at 6:00, the hibernating creature suddenly awoke, and his stomach rumbled, which registered as a 1.2 magnitude earthquake on the Richter scale.

It was time for dinner, so President Williams took out his crossbow and caught himself a meal. It was a prospective student from the Allentown area, his favorite food. Over dinner, he took a conference call with the board of directors about low enrollment from the Allentown area. When he was done, it was time to unwind, so President Williams turned on the TV for the first time today and turned to MSNBC, where we watched a news program hosted by Brian Williams. Every time he came on the screen, President Williams would excitedly assure me that Brian Williams is his brother. This is not actually true.

At 7:55, we arrived to the Empie Theatre for the latest production from the award winning Theatre Program like he loves to brag about. At approximately 8:02, President Williams began a 90 minute, snore filled nap.

Finally, after a long day, everyone was all tuckered out, so President Williams put on his nightgown and nightcap and falls asleep in the fetal position.

So there you have it. This schedule is the pathway to success. If you follow this guide exactly as written, you'll be able to annually raise tuition to fund your habit of buying ill-fitting suits.

The Love Guru

Sara Vigneri
Purveyor of Information

Dear Sara, So I hooked up with this guy at a party and I really wish he'd ask me out but he only snapchats me and we never text, what should I do? Love, Textless in Trexler

I'm afraid to ask what you mean by 'hooked up,' please don't tell me you had sex with someone who is all but a stranger to you! What happened to making a guy at least pay for your dinner before 'hooking up'. Or does hooking up mean something more innocent, like holding hands? Honestly, I have no idea what this means. Here's the point — if you hook up with a guy who you wouldn't even recognize if you ran into him at the dining hall, you might have put the cart before the horse, so to speak. For goodness sake, save something for the wedding night!

Dear Sara, The other day, my calculus professor was explaining the second fundamental theorem of calculus and his eyes lit up with passion, he's so dreamy! Do you think I have a chance or is he out of my league? Love, Troubled in Trumbower

Oh boy. If I had a dollar for every girl who swooned when a guy said something smart I'd be a very rich woman. And if I had to pay a dollar for every guy who swooned when a woman said something smart, I'd still be a rich woman. But no one is actually paying me to do any of this so I'll keep it simple — stay away. He's probably old enough to be your father and I don't care if this makes me sound old fashioned but … eww. For goodness sake, find yourself a pre-med student who dreams of becoming an orthopedic surgeon and do his laundry. He'll be swooning over you in no time and you can thank me after you and your doctor are walking down the aisle.

*Dear Sara, So I started dating this cute guy in my FYS and things were going great until March Madness, when his obsession over his f*in bracket was not possible to deal with. I dumped him and now have to endure my FYS with him just glaring at me. What should I do? Love, Forlorn Firstyear*

Listen kiddo, guys and sports go together like peanut butter and jelly. If you reject every guy who obsesses over sports you are going to be one lonely woman. Do what I do, listen to snippets of sports radio and say to your guy 'so I hear the Eagles are thinking about bringing Darren Sproles back.' And then while he rattles on about sports you can flip through cute puppy pictures on Instagram. Everybody wins!

Sara Vigneri is a dating advice guru who has been begging college kids to settle down and get married since 1997. Contact her at weeklyloveguru@gmail.com.

William Wamser is running for Mayor of Allentown

Will Wamser
The future mayor of Allentown

I would like to start off by expressing my eternal gratefulness for everyone here at The Muhlenberg Weekly for allowing me this platform. The staff here are great people and I owe them a lot for the opportunities they've given me. That being said, I will be leaving the Muhlenberg Weekly, effective immediately.

But there is a bright side to this tragic news, I am officially announcing my candidacy for mayor of Allentown, Pa.

Many of you must be wondering why I, a 19-year-old a college student from Abington Pa., would run for mayor of Allentown. There is really only one answer, I love this city. The other candidates do not fully appreciate this city, they take what makes it wonderful for granted, they try to take advantage of it for their own gains, but not me. I am not running for monetary gains, I'm set for life after a lawsuit involving Netflix. I'm not running to advance my political career, I have no political aspirations outside of the mayor's office. I'm not running because of some need to be in the public eye because I'm afraid of public speaking — but I will power through it for the people of Allentown.

I am running because I genuinely love this city.

Over the past two years at Muhlenberg I have seen Allentown fully for what it is and experienced everything it had to offer; heck, I get my hair cut at the Allentown Farmers Market. Because of this, I have seen the beauty Allentown possesses, but I have also seen the hardships it faces. I believe I can do something to ease the hardships.

Now I want to say I have a lot of respect for former mayor Ed Pawlowski, he did a lot of good for Allentown and I admire his work in that regard. But, seeing as he has been found guilty of most corruption charges set against him, I have to say that I do not respect him and in no way admire any of his work for this city. This city deserves better than their public servants lying to their faces and stealing behind their backs. I have zero tolerance for any sort of corruption. A city hall with me in charge will be completely transparent to the public to avoid any potential for abuses of power.

My staples of communication and community involvement will come from you, the people, as well as myself. Before I make any official decision as mayor I will make sure to know how it stands with my citizens. I plan to personally hold many public forums, go door to door asking people′s opinions, and stand outside grocery stores looking for signatures. A mayor's job is to serve the people of their city and I will never forget that.

One of the greatest issues Allentown faces is its budget. The budget is unbalanced as it is, which is why I am planning to start a committee of dedicated public servants to go through the expenses of each department and find where money is not being handled as best it could. I promise that the citizens of Allentown will not have to pay anything more under Will Wamser as Mayor. I plan on raising funds for the city by partnering with small businesses to host fundraisers; including movie nights, bingo, a laser show, and an Allentown sponsored game of tag — so everyone has a stake in their city.

If I can leave you all with one thing, it is that I plan to make the city of Allentown work for its citizens again. So, please, I beg of you City Council, vote William Wamser to be the next mayor of Allentown. If you vote for me I will be sure to friend you on Facebook and who knows, I may even poke you. And remember, where there's a Will, there's a Wamser. Thank you.

Wood Dining Commons hosts 2018 Soupa March Madness Tournament

Chicken Tortilla's crunchy tortilla strips wipe out Broccoli Cheddar's fresh florets

Michael Havkins
& Ryan Smolko
Soup Connoisseurs

In an instant classic of two college blue bloods, two 2 seeds faced off in the first annual Soupa March Madness. Chicken Tortilla pulled out a gutsy last-second move to power past tournament favorite Fresh Broccoli & Sharp Cheddar. This NCAA tournament had it all: drama, suspense, basil and other ingredients we're still waiting on Sodexo to figure out.

Let's look back on a dramatic tournament before detailing the championship game. After a highly controversial 12 seed, the no-meat, no-respect Vegetarian Vegetable took down Chili 65-53. Only 15.62% of brackets had the Veggies pulling out the stunning, yet hearty, upset.

Lion's Head soup was forced to leave the tournament after several players on their team violated the NCAA alcohol policy. They were quickly forgotten, however, as this year's cinderella 10 seed All American Hamburger used their wholesome nature to advance all the way to the Final Four, before being dethroned by Fresh Broccoli & Sharp Cheddar. Coach Ronald McDonald was congratulatory in defeat: "We gave it everything we had, but kids these days don't have the PlayPlaces to hone their skills and it showed."

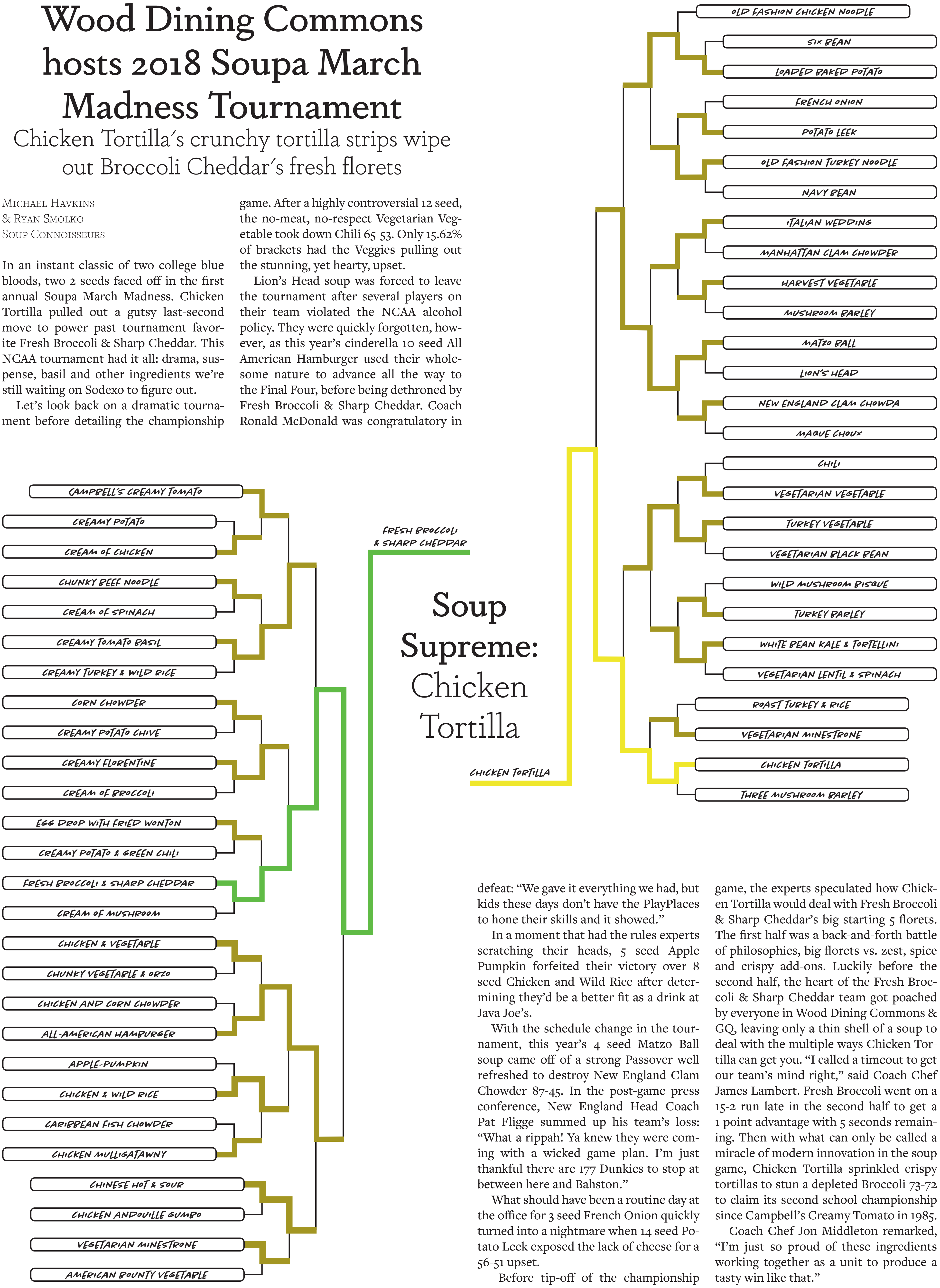
In a moment that had the rules experts scratching their heads, 5 seed Apple Pumpkin forfeited their victory over 8 seed Chicken and Wild Rice after determining they'd be a better fit as a drink at Java Joe's.

With the schedule change in the tournament, this year's 4 seed Matzo Ball soup came off of a strong Passover well refreshed to destroy New England Clam Chowder 87-45. In the post-game press conference, New England Head Coach Pat Fligge summed up his team's loss: "What a rippah! Ya knew they were coming with a wicked game plan. I'm just thankful there are 177 Dunkies to stop at between here and Bahston."

What should have been a routine day at the office for 3 seed French Onion quickly turned into a nightmare when 14 seed Potato Leek exposed the lack of cheese for a 56-51 upset.

Before tip-off of the championship game, the experts speculated how Chicken Tortilla would deal with Fresh Broccoli & Sharp Cheddar's big starting 5 florets. The first half was a back-and-forth battle of philosophies, big florets vs. zest, spice and crispy add-ons. Luckily before the second half, the heart of the Fresh Broccoli & Sharp Cheddar team got poached by everyone in Wood Dining Commons & GQ, leaving only a thin shell of a soup to deal with the multiple ways Chicken Tortilla can get you. "I called a timeout to get our team's mind right," said Coach Chef James Lambert. Fresh Broccoli went on a 15-2 run late in the second half to get a 1 point advantage with 5 seconds remaining. Then with what can only be called a miracle of modern innovation in the soup game, Chicken Tortilla sprinkled crispy tortillas to stun a depleted Broccoli 73-72 to claim its second school championship since Campbell's Creamy Tomato in 1985.

Coach Chef Jon Middleton remarked, "I'm just so proud of these ingredients working together as a unit to produce a tasty win like that."


CAMPBELL'S CREAMY TOMATO
CREAMY POTATO
CREAM OF CHICKEN
CHUNKY BEEF NOODLE
CREAM OF SPINACH
CREAMY TOMATO BASIL
CREAMY TURKEY & WILD RICE
CORN CHOWDER
CREAMY POTATO CHIVE
CREAMY FLORENTINE
CREAM OF BROCCOLI
EGG DROP WITH FRIED WONTON
CREAMY POTATO & GREEN CHILI
FRESH BROCCOLI & SHARP CHEDDAR
CREAM OF MUSHROOM
CHICKEN & VEGETABLE
CHUNKY VEGETABLE & ORZO
CHICKEN AND CORN CHOWDER
ALL-AMERICAN HAMBURGER
APPLE-PUMPKIN
CHICKEN & WILD RICE
CARIBBEAN FISH CHOWDER
CHICKEN MULLIGATAWNY
CHINESE HOT & SOUR
CHICKEN ANDOUILLE GUMBO
VEGETARIAN MINESTRONE
AMERICAN BOUNTY VEGETABLE
FRESH BROCCOLI & SHARP CHEDDAR
Soup Supreme: Chicken Tortilla
CHICKEN TORTILLA
OLD FASHION CHICKEN NOODLE
SIX BEAN
LOADED BAKED POTATO
FRENCH ONION
POTATO LEEK
OLD FASHION TURKEY NOODLE
NAVY BEAN
ITALIAN WEDDING
MANHATTAN CLAM CHOWDER
HARVEST VEGETABLE
MUSHROOM BARLEY
MATZO BALL
LION'S HEAD
NEW ENGLAND CLAM CHOWDA
MAQUE CHOUX
CHILI
VEGETARIAN VEGETABLE
TURKEY VEGETABLE
VEGETARIAN BLACK BEAN
WILD MUSHROOM BISQUE
TURKEY BARLEY
WHITE BEAN KALE & TORTELLINI
VEGETARIAN LENTIL & SPINACH
ROAST TURKEY & RICE
VEGETARIAN MINESTRONE
CHICKEN TORTILLA
THREE MUSHROOM BARLEY

4 sports, 1 team

Muhlenberg no longer supporting 18 of the 22 sports teams

MATT RIEBESELL
NEWLY APPOINTED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In an absolutely devastating announcement on Mar. 26, Muhlenberg stated that they would no longer be offering 22 varsity sports programs beginning in 2018-19; instead, the purge on Athletics would result in just 4 teams remaining. The announcement came from the Office of Communications, as no one administrator wanted to have their name associated with the decision.

Muhlenberg's bearer of bad news — especially when it comes to delayed openings not being called snow days — Bill Keller sent the message out to the student body.

"The College has opted to eliminate a couple of the sports programs on campus. Do not worry though. It wasn't that many, and you will all be fine. It wasn't like you were going pro anyway."

Left with the vague message, the student body responded in an uproar. Students picketed outside of the LSC with signs that read "Can you even name all 22 sports?", "What about the Children?!" and "Let the Kids Play!" The strong protest efforts backed administration into having Bill Keller send more depressing and deflating news. The follow up was much more direct:

"Listen up everyone. Your little sports gigs are up. We are keeping four programs and the rest are eliminated immediately. Football, Volleyball, Women's Basketball, and, in a recent turn of events, Men's Lacrosse: you're spared. As for the rest of the programs, your time is up. We hope you enjoyed your last season(s)."

The note included a strategic post scriptum.

"By the way volleyball … consider yourselves lucky. We just hired a new coach and we need an even amount of men's and women's teams to be compliant with Title IX."

Coaches seemed to unanimously share a collective anger and sadness. Reporters sent to many offices found barren rooms with nothing left. However, other coaches were able to see somewhat of a bright side to the unfortunate decision.

"Although I am devastated with the decision of the school no longer supporting the Track and Field and Cross Country programs, I will be able to connect with one of my true passions on a deeper level," explained Brad Hackett, Head Track and Field Coach. "I can truly devote myself to 'Noon Hoops', and I can't wait to get back into Memorial Hall to start honing in on my jump shot fundamentals and rebounding. I think an accurate player comparison would be Jean-Lee Baez. I am tenacious under the basket, but I tell fellow nooners like Tommy Dowd and Deon Edwards don't give me an open shot around the key. I'll drain that all day."

There are a few rumors going around campus as to why the school is opting to take this course of action. The decision will impact roughly 500 students at Muhlenberg who are, for sure, athletes first and students third.

One inside source with administration, who was granted anonymity to speak candidly about the topic suggested, says the decision is strictly financial and administration promised to only pick the sports that will cost the College the least amount of money moving forward and show no favoritism.

"Think about it like this: imagine having to spend money on a few dozen soccer balls. That is pretty darn expensive. Now think about a sport like football or lacrosse where the college has to provide funds for padding, multiple coaches, nearly or more than 100 uniforms, etc … that can't be too much more, right?"

> **"The College has opted to eliminate a couple of the sports programs on campus. Do not worry though … It wasn't like you were going pro anyway."**

The riveting calculations used to access financial gains and loss were supposedly made after the school thoughtfully paid for a nationwide search, which began immediately after Muhlenberg decided think about eliminating the majority of athletics. The search found Muhlenberg actually has its own has statistics and economics professors on this campus who could calculate the financial standing if programs were (or were not) eliminated. Regardless, the school ignored their own professors' recommendations and proceeded anyway.

Another speculation is that the school is keeping only the athletics programs which are most successful. One student who wished to remain anonymous said, "I mean the four teams picked are the best ones … Let's not kid ourselves, it's not like Field Hockey won an ECAC Championship last year or something."

The impact of lost programs will undoubtedly stretch throughout the campus. Certain faculty seemed to be the most disappointed after the news broke.

"Throughout my 17 year career at Muhlenberg I assumed, there's no baseball or softball field so the teams must not exist," said Sara Vigneri, The Weekly's adviser and Purveyor of Information. "But then when I found out the teams were off campus I thought, well that's unfortunate. I never went to any of the games though."

When asked specifically about how much the loss of athletics programs would mean to her she responded, "it happens."

On the other side of Chew Street, arts students were upset for their fellow students Mules. A group responded to our reporters: "We are all going to be really sad we can't watch the Mustangs anymore!"

With the bad news looming over the Life Sports Center, former student-athletes, athletics staff and fans have planned to gather in the coming weeks to share some of their best memories as a Mule. The Weekly will keep its readers updated of the date and time of the event.

FROM **A** PAGE 12

They'll have many long bus rides, as most of the teams in the conference are located throughout New York State. But despite these relative difficulties, the opportunity to jump to a higher level of competition will make it all worth it.

The first game at the Division II level for the Mules will take place next Saturday at 1 p.m. at Scotty Wood Stadium, as the Mules will take on the NYIT Bears in the first ever matchup between the programs. Although the competition will be significantly more challenging compared to their former Division III opponents, the Mules are already embracing this new chapter in the program's history.

In fact, the jump to Division II has already helped their recruiting efforts. The team was able to sign seventeen recruits from the high school "Top 100 list," an accomplishment that previously would have been impossible for a Division III program. These new recruits will be a part of the Class of 2022 and are all an important part of this new exciting chapter of Muhlenberg men's lacrosse — and were especially sold on their admissions decision after eating in the Wood Dining Commons.

In accordance with the Mules move to Division II, the College is now in the initial stages of developing a brand-new, 10,000 seat turf stadium for the men's lacrosse team. The field will be located underground next to the make-believe parking garage, which is already a part of the current long term Master Plan. Being that the stadium is one of the final steps in the Master Plan process, the field is said to be complete by the 2057 season and will rely on Mule Madness for the entirety of its funding.

FROM **a** PAGE 12

years. It was in alleys across Long Island that he was able to find solstice away from the meatheads and fake blondes that also call Long Island home. He found comfort in mastering a sport, despite not being stereotypically athletic and being a self-admitted average bowler.

"When I hit the lanes, I find myself thinking about how simple yet complicated it really is," said Kantor. "In fact, it's not so easy. Bowling is one of the more difficult sports to master. But anyone can bowl."

Debra Kantor, who may or may not be Kantor's mother — I don't know, I've never met her — described the importance of her only child's one true passion. "He walks into the alley with his own world and set of problems. When he goes in though, everyone puts on the clown shoes. All his problems are in the shoes and he leaves them in the shoes."

Kantor's hard work paid off, earning him a coveted sponsorship from Gold & Meyer's Deli, never having to pay for a bagel again.

Riebesell's history with bowling revolves around the party lifestyle, or lack thereof. Unable to fit in with the rest of the Jersey Shore and Wildwood crowd, he found it difficult to fit in really anywhere. That is, until he found bowling. He may have a good arm for baseball now, but he has his extensive bowling career to thank for it.

Riebesell dedicated his life to the lanes. It started with a bowl cut to complete the bowler image and ended with varsity letters in bowling, being named captain of the bowling team and becoming a state section finalist for, you guessed it, bowling. But in college, he chose a glove and a ball made hide over the complex polyurethane ball with three holes and the classic red and white leather shoes. Popularity beat passion.

But from the comradery built up over years of sharing a cramped office every Tuesday and Thursday festered a competitive drive that neither could contain. They needed to know who the best bowler — nay, the best athlete — really was.

SEE **Å** PAGE 11

FROM **Å** PAGE 11

With their egos, the position of Editor-in-Chief and ten dollars of food from GQ on the line, the two associates decided to let the pins fall where they may and spare everyone the anxiety of picking sides, although it was clear Will Wamser already had.

It wasn't a close match. After arriving at the bowling alley, Riebesell was confused as to why there were no bumpers, as he'd never played without the pull-up metal safety nets. He was not pleased, but went on to win anyway.

"I was probably better than him in my prime, but he was on a better team," said Kantor. "Am I better? Sure, there's no question. But the odds, and the pins, were stacked against me."

While several of Kantor's attempts wandered into gutter, Riebesell refused to spare him and hit strike after strike.

After his win, Riebesell proclaimed, ripping off the sunglasses he wears to protect from lane glare, "I did it, who do you think you are, I am!"

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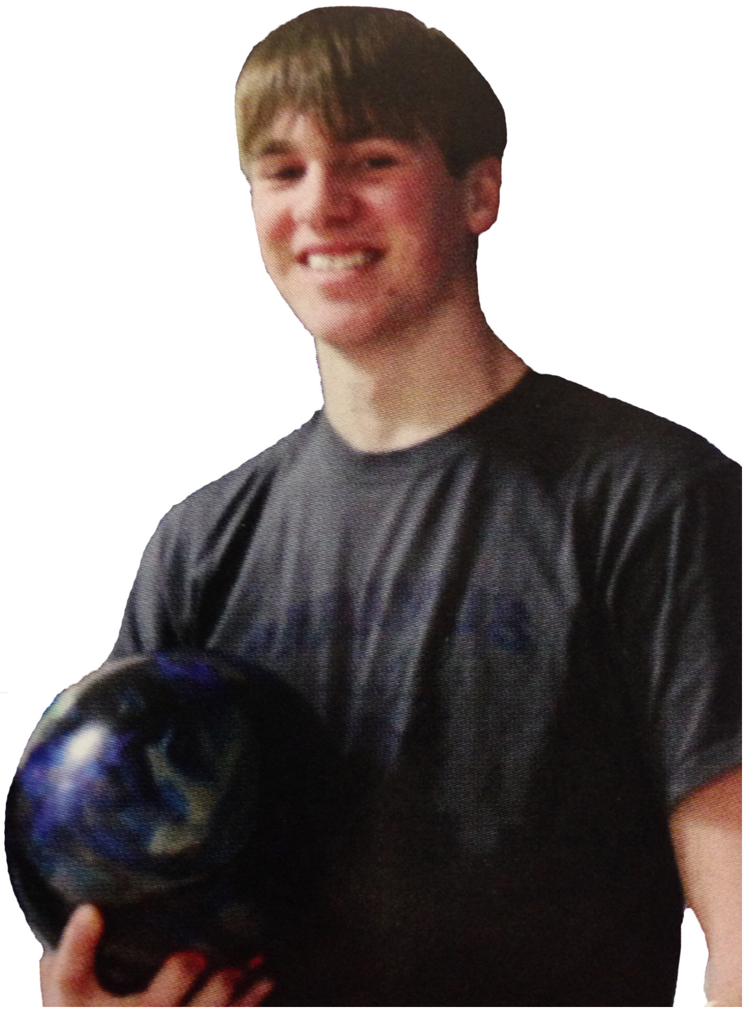
THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/SPORTS

Two men, no balls

By Alyssa Hertel
Dog Aficionado



Based on appearance and reputation, Greg Kantor ‘18 and Matt Riebesell ‘19 share little in common, oft diverging into polar opposite terrority. Kantor stands taller than Riebesell; he wears glasses and either a plaid shirt, some crappy New York sports shirt or his EMT uniform. Riebesell is probably wearing a baseball hat, one that matches his baseball jacket and his baseball sweatpants because, shockingly enough, he’s on the baseball team.

A senior public health major with a minor in Jewish studies, Kantor is an avid fan of subpar sports teams, but very rarely steps out onto the diamond — or gridiron or rink — himself. He strives to change Muhlenberg’s campus policy on smoking, and focuses the remainder of his time on watching the New York Islanders crumble and burn. A junior media & communication major with a minor in political science, Riebesell may or may not excel in the classroom — not really sure — but, like most jocks he’s actually semi-decent at his varsity sport of baseball.

But the two young men do share some similarities. Both can write relatively well, holding editor positions on Muhlenberg’s student newspaper. Both hail from North Jersey … well, Kantor is from Long Island, but the two are essentially the same, correct? Correct. Both are vying for the title of Editor-in-Chief of The Muhlenberg Weekly — Kantor looking to defend his title while Riebesell attempts to earn what he believes is rightfully his.

“His current position aside, Greg’s ruled with a heavy hand for far too long,” said Riebesell; Allentown mayoral candidate and Matt’s friend Will Wamser nodded in agreement behind him. “It’s about time someone from sports, rather than news, took up the mantle.”

Further, both are defined by a dark and secret past. Kantor and Riebesell both excel at the disputed sport of bowling, a fact about themselves they preferred to keep secret until it was uncovered by the newspaper staff.

“I like bowling,” said Kantor. “It’s right up my alley.”

Poorly placed bowling puns aside, what is seen as a casual game to play with friends over a couple beers — or some lukewarm pizza from the snack bar — has discreetly influenced any and all decisions Kantor and Riebesell made. Another similarity, both chose Muhlenberg for is proximity to sub-par bowling alleys that will feed their addiction.

Kantor took up bowling to stay in shape after consuming a diet consisting of strictly New York pizza and bagels for

SEE a PAGE 11

NCAA: ″Muhlenberg Lacrosse is too Good″

Alex Horowitz
Sports!

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

After an impressive and historic start, the Muhlenberg men’s lacrosse will now play in the NCAA Division II in the East Coast Conference. Schedule shuffling is underway to ensure the team can complete its season.

After a stellar start to the 2018 season, the NCAA has made the decision to move Muhlenberg men’s lacrosse team up to the Division II level. After years playing in the Centennial Conference at the Division III level, the Mules will now play in the East Coast Conference, along schools such as the University of Bridgeport and NYIT.

Although such a transition at the collegiate level is rare to occur mid-season, the NCAA supports their own decision and doesn’t care that it will cause a logistical nightmare. They released a statement about the decision: “Mulenberg’s Lacrosse program has proved that they are deserving of some type of reward. These kids are fun to watch too. Have you seen that Garrett Pope guy in goal? The kid is a human wall. How about Ethan Grossman? I don’t think he knows how to shoot unless its behind the back or through somebody’s legs. The best part is he always finds the back of the net.”

The Mules made this historical jump after receiving votes in Division III men’s lacrosse poll for consecutive weeks. This has been the first time since 2008 that the Mules received votes.

“We’re extremely excited about this opportunity to compete in the East Coast Conference,” said Jake Plunket, men’s lacrosse head coach. “Our guys have worked so hard all season at improving their play on the field and helping this Muhlenberg program win games. To be recognized nationally is truly an honor and I am just so happy for all of our players. From the research I’ve done in the past few days, the East Coast Conference is a highly regarded group of teams and I can’t wait to get to work in preparing to win games for Muhlenberg College at this new level of collegiate lacrosse.”

Because the schedule has already been set for the remainder of the 2018 season, the team had to make some quick revisions to its calendar for the next few months of the spring. Games against scheduled opponents such as Gettysburg and Moravian have been canceled, so those teams will simply just receive an automatic loss in the Centennial Conference standings — the likely result if the game was played.

As for the Mules, they had to schedule its new games against Division II opponents only on days when those teams had a previously scheduled off day, which was somewhat of a tough task. With a travel scheduling that will be rather hectic, the Mules have a crazy journey ahead of them.

SEE A PAGE 13

Coming up this week in SPORTS

For a given definition of sports

Theatre

Glory

Thursday, Apr. 5
Empie Theatre

Dance

Dance Emerge 2018

Wednesday, Apr. 18
Studio Theatre

Theatre

For colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf

Thursday, Apr. 26
Baker Theatre

Theatre

The Pirates of Penzance

Friday, Apr. 27
Empie Theatre

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

Marching on

Students share their experiences at March For Our Lives in both Allentown and in Washington D.C.

read more on 8

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NEWS

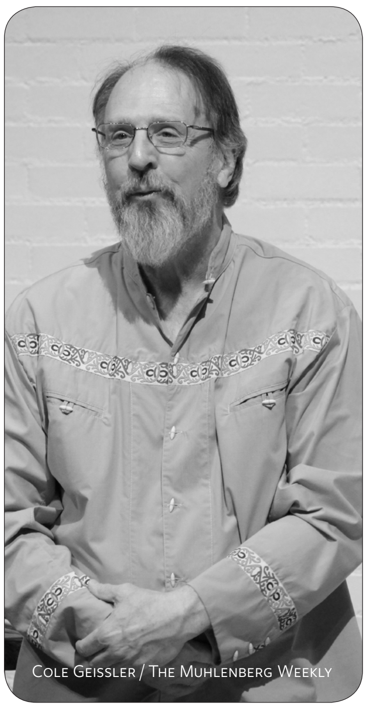
What's the sign for lesbian? Queer Week kicks off with crash course on the nuances of LGBTQ sign language and the importance of accessibility.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

A step towards change in body, spirit, and scope, the Black Acting Methods Studio takes the stage as a new approach to the acting world.

read more on 5


Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

OP/ED

Will Wamser attempts to make an article about the idea of him not stopping at red lights. Spoiler alert: he does a bad job.

read more on 9

SPORTS

As Muhlenberg's director of track and field, Brad Hackett prides himself in maintaining a quality program, even if that includes making friendly wagers with his athletes.

read more on 12

Photo Courtesy of Ken Ek

CIRCLE IN THE WATER

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

A young man in a t-shirt and black jeans listlessly taps a soccer ball against a colorful backdrop, his black shoes sharply contrasting the neon floor beneath him. His eyes are downcast, but mine are curious — I must watch him, for he is there to be seen. Another man, this one dressed in gardener's garb and armed with an oversized pair of shears, plods near him, inspecting false flowers on bushes that have never lived. Yet I believe him when he concernedly examines the white and red roses, trimming carefully around their thorns. More simply dressed people flood onto the stage, joining in the first man's soccer game, blissfully unaware of the larger game they'll be playing for the next few hours, the one that I and a theatre full of others have come to observe.

This is *Glory*, the first in a three-part adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry VI* tetraology. Over the weekend of Apr. 5-8, this two hour and forty-five minute play took to the Empie stage, bringing along with it an intriguing mix of a four-hundred-year-old tradition and a modern perspective as devised by the-

see **Glory** page 6

MAC announces JoJo as headliner for spring concert

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

JoJo will headline this year's spring concert on April 15 at 8:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall, the Muhlenberg Activities Council (MAC) announced.

JoJo is a singer-songwriter originally from Foxborough, Mass. Taking the stage as a child, she showcased her critically acclaimed vocals by performing Aretha Franklin covers on national television at the age of eight. She released some of her hit songs such as "Leave (Get Out)" and "Too Little Too Late" before her sweet sixteen. "Leave (Get Out)," her debut single, reached number one on the United States *Billboard* pop songs chart when she was just thirteen years old, earning her the distinction of being the youngest solo artist to top the chart.

Additionally, performing as an opener, JoJo has toured alongside artists like Joe Jonas, Jay Sean and Fifth Harmony.

JoJo has sold more than seven million albums worldwide, but has not released new music since late 2016. In addition to her music career, JoJo experienced success in her acting career as well, making her feature film debut in "Aquamarine" and "RV," with the late Robin Williams, in 2006.

JoJo joins the list of blast-from-the-past artists slated to perform at Muhlenberg's spring concert - Kris Allen, Jeremih, Jesse McCartney and Smash Mouth - but she was not the original choice of headliner.

For most students, the formal process that goes into selecting a performer for the yearly concert isn't openly disclosed, but it's not a secret either. Years ago, students were sent an electronic survey via email where they would be prompted to vote for a potential act. This method hasn't been used in years and MAC is now primarily responsible for brainstorming, selecting and booking an artist.

"MAC has an agent that they reach out to every year and that

see **Jojo** page 4

Change in law could restrict future housing

Allentown's limitation expansion will not affect current students

By Chloe Gravereaux
Asst. Managing Editor

On Feb. 21, the amount of future students who can live off-campus in newly acquired properties was restricted by the Allentown Planning Committee unanimous vote to expand the Allentown Student Residence Overlay District.

The Allentown Student Residence Overlay District is a zoning law, or an agreement between two parties as to how a geographical space is to be used. The overlay district was created in 1997 by Ordinance 59 to, as The Muhlenberg Weekly reported in a front-page article on the topic, "maintain the residential character of the neighborhood." The agreement states that only two unrelated students can live under the same roof within the given area specified in this ordinance, called the Overlay District.

The Overlay District currently stretches in a blocky, lopsided U shape around campus. The Muhlenberg Office of Residential (ORS) services defines the area as the space bordered by Tilghman Street on the north, 27th Street on the west, 19th and Leh Streets on the east, and Parkway Boulevard on the south. The expansion approved by the committee would push the border one block north to Washington Street and one block to the west to 27th Street, according to the Morning Call.

Katie Shelley, Assistant Director of Residential Services, explained that the College will not be losing any beds to this ordinance. When the original ordinance passed, the two-student limit only applied to properties acquired by the College after ordinance 59 was enacted, meaning houses already owned by the College as student-only housing were exempt. As a result, there are select MILE houses that are "grandfathered" in and can house up to four students; most of these houses became group housing. This ordinance, according to ORS, also applies not only

see **Housing** page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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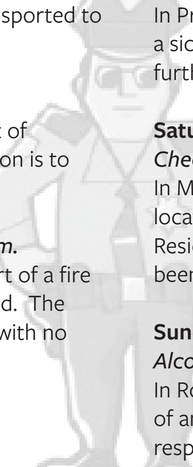
The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition.However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety



Monday, April 2
Sick Student - 10:54 a.m.
In East Hall, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Injured Student - 8:27 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of an injured student. The student refused further treatment or transport.

Wednesday, April 4
Check the Welfare - 9:24 a.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report to locate a student. Contact was made with the student, who was then transported to Health Services.

Harassment - 10:30 p.m.
In Walz Hall, there was a report of harassment, and the investigation is to continue.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 10:41 p.m.
In South Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from burnt food. The system was silenced and reset with no further incident.

Thursday, April 5
Found Property - 3:15 a.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a found cell phone. It is unknown to whom the item belongs. The phone was placed in a lost and found locker.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 12:11 p.m.
In East Hall, First Floor, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding as a result of a dirty filter. Plant Operations was notified to respond to replace the filter, and there was no further incident.

Suspicious Person - 2:58 p.m.
In Trexler Library, B-Level, there was a report of a suspicious person. The individual was identified and spoken to. Allentown Police Department responded. Emmaus EMS also responded and transported the individual to the hospital.

Point of Information - 6:00 p.m.
In East Hall, there was a report of a missing laptop. The investigation is to continue.

Friday, April 6
Traffic Accident - 12:01 a.m.
At North 22nd Street, there was a report of a minor motor vehicle accident causing damage to bumpers. Allentown Police Department also responded and took a report.

Sick Student - 4:00 p.m.
In Prosser Annex, there was a report of a sick student. The student has refused further treatment or transport at this time.

Saturday, April 7
Check the Welfare - 12:04 a.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report to locate a student. Contact was made, and Residential Services was notified. There has been no further incident at this time.

Sunday, April 8
Alcohol Violation - 1:20 a.m.
In Robertson Hall, there was a report of an alcohol violation. Allentown EMS responded and transported a student to the hospital. Allentown Police Department responded and cited a student for Underage Consumption.

Alcohol Violation - 2:53 a.m.
At Liberty and 22nd Streets, there was a report of an intoxicated student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Vehicle Lock Out - 4:22 p.m.
At Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of a locked vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer successfully unlocked the vehicle.

Lost Property - 8:00 p.m.
In the Center for the Arts, there was a report of a lost wallet.

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Creating a network:

Ninth annual alumni week for the media & communications department offers professional assistance for students

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

The week of Apr. 9 marks the ninth annual Alumni Week for Muhlenberg's Media and Communication department. The week is filled with a plethora of alumni coming back to Allentown to offer their knowledge and insight to current 'Berg students in the department hoping to break into different industries.

Alumni are invited to speak during different class times and have luncheons and dinners with students who are looking to network. "Students who really take advantage of the opportunities available benefit in multiple ways," said Dr. Sue Curry Jansen, Professor of Media and Communication.

"Students, especially those seeking internships or entering the job market, who take full advantage of these learning opportunities can have an extra edge on the competition," said Jansen. "Some alums work in companies that are looking for interns. Sometimes alums do interviews for internships during alumni week and occasionally even interview for jobs. But all alums have been willing to offer advice, share contact information, and give our students a chance when new opportunities arise."

The wide-ranging opportunities are not just for the students. Jansen recalls some of her favorite moments of previous alumni weeks were during visits from former students. "I always learn a lot from [alumni], and find it uniquely gratifying to be a student of my former students for a little while."

"Students ... who take full advantage of these learning opportunities can have an extra edge on the competition."

She remembered a specific instance regarding a former student who scarcely spoke during class. "It is rewarding, and in its way funny too, or at least ironic, when someone who never spoke in class as a student, finds a career in talk radio and comes back and seamlessly holds a class in thrall for 40 minutes," said Jansen.

Another perk of alumni in different professional fields sharing their knowledge with the Muhlenberg community is hearing firsthand about what Jansen describes as a "digital revolution" within the industry.

"It is a rapidly changing field. Media and communication, along with computer science, are ground zero of the digital transformation of contemporary life," Jansen said. "Many of our alums are on the frontlines. They come prepared to share knowledge of the latest innovations in their specialties."

Alumni Week in the Media and Communication department should not be a turn off for non-majors currently enrolled in classes that will have visitors.

"Our alums go in many different directions, not just in the media or film industry." Jansen explained. "We always make an extra effort to invite alums working in a range of different fields so that students, especially first year students and sophomores can see the range of possibilities open to them." She cited examples from educational programs, non-profits, government agencies, law, corporate communications, publishing, and library studies as previous speaker's industries.

Overall Jansen wants students to make the most of the campus hosting the special guests.

"Graduation may seem like it's a very long time away," said Jansen. "But internships come much sooner, so your professional socialization should start now."

One perfect example she shared was of a student taking advantage of the different programs was during one of the first alumni weeks Jansen recollected. "After Brian Teta, then a producer on the David Letterman Show gave his talk Donald Adler, a freshman, went up to him and said, 'I want your life' and asked, 'How can I get it?' Brian became a kind of mentor. Now, Donald is living his dream, working in television."

The Media and Communication department at Muhlenberg was the first to officially have an alumni week. Whether or not other departments at the College see Media and Communication as a role model for their own alumni weeks Janson thinks holding such an event "just makes sense for everybody". Her one piece of advice to make the event a hit: food. "You can't do Muhlenberg without food."

Queer Week:

Hayden Kristal's lighthearted 'GaySL' crash course opens the week's programming

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

On Tuesday, April 10, Queer Week kicked off with Hayden Kristal who gave a workshop titled "GaySL: A Crash Course in LGBTQ American Sign Language."

"I am a deaf or hard of hearing genderqueer bisexual speaker and comedian and I come to speak to you about LGBT ASL. That's a lot of letters," Kristal said in introducing themself.

Kristal began their workshop by rapidly signing, which caused much of the audience to blink in mild confusion before Kristal laughed and said "It's almost like I'm fluent or like I'm very good at voguing. No, that was real sign language."

Attendees laughed throughout the event, as Kristal explained some of the finer points of cochlear implants and hearing aids, taught the alphabet in ASL and talked about how people view accessibility.

Prompted by a question from the audience, Kristal explained that they can hear frequencies at the mid-range level — which is where most people normally speak — but not on the higher or lower ends. Kristal understands people mostly through either lip reading or sign language.

"Only 30% of spoken English can be gleaned through lip reading and the rest is gleaned through context. My life is like a game of wheel of fortune," Kristal said.

Throughout the workshop they mentioned their work as a teaching assistant in ASL classes and working with deaf children.

"I am very proud to be involved in deaf culture," Kristal said. "I feel very comfortable around deaf people and using sign language."

The workshop was a peek into this culture as they began teaching the alphabet and LGBTQ signs, and Kristal explained that there are certain signs that are more widespread than others, whereas some are very localized. Kristal laughed as they explained that Philadelphia has its own very unique dialect for sign language that not even the rest of Pennsylvania uses.

"ASL will borrow words from English just like English will borrow words from other languages like karaoke and tsunami," Kristal said. "English and sign language are different languages; it has its own syntax and grammar."

Kristal began the lesson with the alphabet, explaining that "if you can finger spell a word in sign language you can technically say anything you want but then you will be my mother." They laughed as they gave anecdotes about their mom as an example of what is technically correct but should not be copied when signing such as "typewriter-ing" with the letters and signing too slow.

"We're going to work our way through the LGBTQ not because they're the only ones but because they're the most used and the most standard," Kristal said, again stressing that for most there is no universal sign. "There are regional variations, some places have deemed one sign more or less appropriate but it's so hyper regional."

Kristal taught the group the most common signs for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and shared some stories with each sign, emphasizing the personal variations and some of the origins for each.

Kristal shared a story of how they've heard from several others that the positioning of the letter L on one's chin for the sign for lesbian can be used to indicate how butch or femme they are. "I've never seen it in the wild but it's too good not to share," they said.

When teaching the sign for gay, Kristal said "I saw someone say they were 'gay as hell,'" quickly adding that fingerspelling can also be used as emphasis. One person Kristal met had introduced himself with the sign for gay and then immediately fingerspelled it; Kristal said that they understood what he meant but was greatly amused when they explained that it was their own personal sign.

The most common sign for bisexual is the letter B into the letter I, which looks like a slight wave. Kristal signed while saying "bi, bi, bi," before laughing that "the music video would be much better if it meant bisexual, bisexual, bisexaul."

When Kristal taught the sign for transgender, they explained that it was universal and created when a group of deaf trans people came together to decide on a singular sign to spread to the rest of the community.

Kristal ended the workshop with a brief discussion on intersectionality and accessibility.

"I feel very strongly as a person that 90% of all bigotry is just applied ignorance," Kristal said, mentioning that language can be a large part of making something accessible to someone. In other words, if a word has not been reclaimed by that person, it can isolate that person from resources that could help them — Kristal stressed this importance of accessibility not just for people with disabilities but for everyone.

Kristal's talk was the first program in a series of events set to take place this week.

"Queer Week is an annual week of events were we put together different programs relating to LGBT issue and also incorporating some other ideas," said Alexa Urbach '18, the president of Students for Queer Advocacy (SQuAd) and an organizer of Queer Week.

Other events will include buses to Stonewall, a gay bar in Allentown, which will leave beginning at 10:30 p.m. on Thursday and then coffeehouse in the Fireside Lounge on Friday at 7:00 p.m.

"We always need people to perform," Urbach said of Friday's Coffeehouse. "We're welcoming people to bring any thoughts, and it doesn't have to be related, specifically, to queer issues."

FROM **JoJo** PAGE 1

agent gives us a list of performers that are already touring and might be in our region of Pennsylvania," said Matt Itzkowitz '19, Vice President of MAC. "There's a concert board - which is all of MAC's e-board as well as any additional students that want to be a part of concert board - and from the artists that we're given, we bring them our top choices. For there, we have our agent reach out to the artists in the order we chose them. If the top artist isn't available, then he'll reach out to the next one."

While the original artist selections are chosen by MAC members, Itzkowitz wanted to make it clear that the student group strives to select a performer that would be popular among most students and not their personal favorite.

MAC hopes that announcing JoJo as the headliner wasn't "Too Little Too Late."

"We try to think about what will get the most attention and notoriety around campus. We're considering what the student body as a whole would want as an artist, rather than just our personal opinions,"said Itzkowitz.

Even through careful planning and selective process of securing an artist issues that impede upon the availability of the performer are bound to occur sometimes. Originally, Clean Bandit, a Grammy Award-winning classical crossover electronic music group from the United Kingdom, was scheduled to perform. However, on Mar. 13, two days before MAC planned to announce the concert headliner, Clean Bandit cancelled their U.S. tour after their drummer required foot surgery.

"It was supposed to be announced that Clean Bandit was the artist," said Itzkowitz. "We were kind of scrambling to see who was available on short notice to come to Muhlenberg. After looking around at different artists, JoJo was the one artist that was available to come on such short notice, with less than a month to go. We know the announcement was very late, but we were waiting on her and her team's approval to make the announcement."

After Clean Bandit's cancellation, it came down to JoJo or no artist whatsoever, so at the end of the day, JoJo kept the spring concert tradition alive.

After debuting a new brand for Muhlenberg's annual spring concert last year in an attempt to create an experience rather than the concert being solely about the artist, MAC has decided to move away from 'Uproar' and stick with simply the Muhlenberg Spring Concert.

"Our goal was initially to create a name and keep using it each year so that regardless of who the artist was, students would think 'We're going to Uproar' and would get excited about the event, in case there was an artist they weren't as excited about," said Itzkowitz. "In theory, Uproar would have more than just music there – it would be a festival-type experience, but ultimately we didn't like the name all that much. We're sticking with the Muhlenberg Spring Concert because everyone knows what that is and we think it will still gather enough students."

Despite essentially telling 'Uproar' to "Leave (Get Out)," MAC hopes that announcing JoJo as the headliner wasn't "Too Little Too Late."

FROM **HOUSING** PAGE 1

to College-owned properties, but also any rentals that house college students. Shelley believes the same will occur this time.

"We anticipate it being pretty similar," said Shelley. "The dates may shift. But the immediate students who are in those houses, the immediate students who are scheduled to live there for next year will not be impacted."

When originally proposed in 1997, the College labeled the ordinance as discriminatory towards students. An article in the Sept. 4, 1997 issue of The Weekly shows Allentown residents concerned for the "deterioration of a single-family neighborhood." This time around, the College has not taken such a strong stance, explained Allison Gulati, Dean of Students.

"We have maintained a fairly neutral stance because, number one, likey any property with students in them that will be impacted will be part of that grandfathering process. Number two, we believe that keeping students relatively close to campus is important to their success as college students. So if you look at that map, some of those places that are included in the expansion students wouldn't choose to live there anyway," she said.

A study conducted by the Indiana University School of Education showed that students of all races who lived on campus or within walking distance interacted with faculty on average at five percent more than students who lived further than walking distance from campus. Although Indiana did report that students on campus spent more time on extracurricular activities and socializing, it was not much more than their walking distance or further counter parts.

"All research related to student success in college states that when you live residentially, you are more likely to be successful academically," said Gulati. "You are closer to health, academic and social resources that you might need. You're more likely to stay engaged in clubs and organizations on campus. And you're less likely to skip class, be late to class, etc. For all those reasons, we want to keep students as close as possible."

Additionally, Gulati pointed out, houses far off campus pose a safety hazard both to students and residents. Crossing Tilghman is dangerous when sober, added Gulati, not to mention after a night of partying. Most of these houses remain vacant over the summer, added Gulati, tempting burglaries and increasing crime rates. The additional rotation of students living there makes forming a cohesive neighborhood difficult for year-to-year residents.

As part of the Master Plan, Muhlenberg intends to build an apartment-style upperclassmen dorm with retail space on the ground floor, which will move more students on campus while also replacing the beds in The Courts.

Nearly 20 years after the ordinance passed, the Morning Call's report on a town hall on the expansion revealed that homeowners were concerned with the resale values of their homes and the "wolf packs" of students "roaming from one party to another on weekends."

Despite these limitations in this one area, everywhere else in the city up to four students are allowed to live in a house at a time reported the Morning Call. Only within the overlay district are students limited to living in pairs. As a result, there are several college-owned properties that have the room to house two students if needed, but are restricted due to zoning laws.

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A Crown it is, that seldom Kings enjoy."
—William Shakespeare, from *King Henry VI*

Embracing discomfort

By Emma Forgione
Contributing Writer

Emma Forgione/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Asia DeShields '19 leads an exercise on Afrocentrism during the Black Acting Methods workshop on Apr. 7. Perspective, Afrocentrism and inclusivity all melted into the narrative of contemporary actors of color.

Some people say that there are only a select number of stories to tell and that every new story is just a re-iteration of an old plot revived for the next generation of spectators. In some ways, this may be true. But in some ways this is simply a blindness or unwillingness to acknowledge groups or storytelling methods that are different from what we see in the mainstream mass entertainment sector. I had the privilege of attending a symposium this past Saturday that was created and facilitated by the Black Acting Methods Studio.

The event was called "Diversity in the Arts," and involved a multi-part conversation and workshop session that drew attention to issues of color-conscious artistry, Afrocentricity and identity. Dr. Sharrell Luckett, assistant professor of Theatre and Dance and a new member of the theater faculty, recently founded the studio here at Muhlenberg.

What was so amazing and refreshing about this workshop was that it directly confronted questions that would typically go unacknowledged on a day-to-day basis here at school, unaddressed by white students made uncomfortable by the subject.

A great example comes from the section in the workshop about color-conscious casting. A group of about eight white students and one white professor were handed sheets of paper by three facilitators of color. On the sheets of paper were four plays and descriptions of their plots and characters: *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller, *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, *Angels in America* by Tony Kushner and Shirshir Kurup's reimagining of *The Merchant of Venice*. The facilitators then asked participants which plays we would choose to do in an educational setting. In a typical Acting I or II class at Muhlenberg, students are given a variety of plays to choose from to work on in class. Upon reflection on my own experience in these classes, I realized that all of the parts in almost every play were white character roles. There are people of color in acting classes, of course, but they are expected to adopt a white character role for an educational purpose, even though they do not identify with that racial background.

So the facilitators flipped this concept on its head, and asked us what we would do if we had to cast white students to play roles typically played by people of color. Every person in the group showed discomfort in taking on the role of a character of a different race. But this is something that students of color have to deal with all the time. It was extremely enlightening, and something that typically goes unacknowledged in our educational theater setting.

This particular workshop became even more provocative when the facilitators addressed casting calls that advertised "All Actors Welcome." Frederick Marte '20, one of the facilitators, passed out more sheets with a fake casting call that said "All Actors Welcome" and the names and character descriptions of the roles being looked for. There were about eight to ten role descriptions, varying in gender and age. However, the names of the characters alluded to the fact that the characters came from a specific cultural background.

> **The goal was to make the group, comprised of theater makers, aware of this so that perhaps future theater making can explore stories that are outside of what is considered "typical narrative."**

For example, we received a sheet with names that would appear to be of Hispanic, Asian, or African descent. And then we received a sheet with names that are typically associated with white people. But none of the ages or the genders of the characters changed. At the top of each of these sheets was "All Actors Welcome," which is a phrase we typically see in casting at Muhlenberg. It made me question the phrase itself, because in reality, not all actors are welcome for certain roles. So does a person of color feel less welcome auditioning for a role that they think would typically be played by a white person, even though a casting call says "All Actors Welcome?"

Luckett came in afterwards and explained that when you put a body of color on stage, no matter what the background of the role being played, there will always be a cultural connection associated with them that cannot go unacknowledged. The goal was to make the group, comprised of theater majors, aware of this so that perhaps future theater-making can explore stories that are outside of what is considered "mainstream Eurocentric theater."

Another highlight of the workshop was on Afrocentrism, led by Asia DeShields '19. She led us through a movement warm up, and then asked us to embody certain words in frozen positions. She started out with words like "happy" or "sad" that can be captured in some type of bodily freeze. And then she asked us to embody the phrase "black girl genius." As a group of white bodies, it was difficult at first to know exactly what to do. Many members of the group adopted a pose that seemed deep in thought, or proud of the fact that they were smart. She then asked us to embody the phrase with an Afrocentric-lens, and the bodies changed significantly. Participants changed pointing at their brains to putting their arms in the position of a hug or an embrace, from acknowledging intelligence to literally embracing intelligence.

We then sat down for a discussion, prompted by the question, "What would black people do if there were no white people?" We talked about it in small groups. It was difficult to even find a thought to bounce off of for this question.

Michaela Barczak '19 phrased an interesting thought, saying "It makes me think of the way that the white, hegemonic, masculine person is viewed as the 'norm' or the center of the American population, and how other groups compare themselves to that center."

This comment led directly into an explanation of Afrocentrism, or the moving of the center to a place where people of color do not have to define something in comparison to something Eurocentric. Luckett explained this in terms of theater by talking about the Stanislavski acting method, the primary method used here at Muhlenberg, which was developed in Russia by Konstantin Stanislavski.

But Luckett, when she was learning acting, initially learned about the Hendricks method, developed by Freddie Hendricks, an African American theater director. The Hendricks method was her center, and it was not until she learned that other actors used the Eurocentric Stanislavski method and referred to it as "*the* method" that she realized her method was not acknowledged by a large section of theater. The goal of Afrocentrism, then, is to be able to acknowledge something like the Hendricks method without automatically comparing it to the Stanislavski method at the center. Both methods can exist independently and people can choose what is effective for them.

At the close of the day, we stood in a circle, and sent the pulse around as we reflected on how we felt about the day. Each person was enlightened and touched by the conversations and the workshop. This demonstrates that there is a desire for more workshops like this here at Muhlenberg.

Amisha Datta '21, a student that worked with Luckett on this symposium, said, "I am Indian American and I moved to Muhlenberg from China, so I definitely brought an international world view to the symposium. Through that I was able to provide interesting context and examples to a lot of scenarios throughout my workshop. I also brought my perspective as an artist of color to the symposium ... I was able to take my different experiences to show the participants throughout the symposium that what we were learning about and discussing wasn't just about acting or performance, and actually applicable to all theatre, art forms, and life."

Datta also spoke about why she thought the symposium was important for Muhlenberg.

"Muhlenberg is a predominately white campus with a bustling theatre program," she said. "However, when viewing the classes offered and the kind of plays and musicals selected, it is clear that minority students are not always taken into consideration. It's so important to have events like our symposium because they foster conversation and learning. Rather than pointing fingers and blaming people for what our campus lacks, these events help us all figure out how to move forward as a community and understand one another."

GLORY

CIRCLE IN THE WATER

FROM **GLORY** PAGE 1

-atre professor Holly Cate. Beginning in 1993, Cate's desire to give Shakespeare's work new life has resulted in a number of different incarnations of what is now *Glory*, spanning from workshops in New York City to a college in Ohio to even a production on a smaller scale at Muhlenberg .

"During the first phases of my work on the piece, in 1994, the genocides in Bosnia and Rwanda happened, and I began to look at the anatomy of civil war that Shakespeare so deftly outlines in his plays differently," said Cate. "Here I was, looking at the world around me and seeing Shakespeare′s plots play out in Bosnia and Rwanda. It was eerie and important. What began as a cool project started to become a way of understanding the world I was living in ... By the time I arrived at Muhlenberg as a faculty member, I knew I wanted to make the piece a reality ... We actually produced a version of *Glory* back in 2009 here in the Chapel and in Empie as a Community Performance Ensemble. That production had its moments, but it was a struggle from start to finish for a variety of reasons, and I completed that journey feeling like I still hadn′t found the storytelling idiom that the piece needed."

Cate's fellow theatre professor Jim Peck then challenged her to condense her original four plays, which ultimately resulted in Cate's discovery of the Clowns, characters that help guide the audience through the show and serve as physical metaphors for some of the action within it.

"The Clowns are probably the biggest difference between my adaptation and Shakespeare′s original," Cate said. "I′ve also taken one of the central male characters — Warwick, the King maker — and made her a woman. The *Henry VI* plays are some of Shakespeare′s earliest plays, and, as such, are laced with contemporary English propaganda guaranteed to endear Shakespeare to his royal patrons. They were the action movies of Shakespeare′s time, full of larger than life characters and gripping battle scenes. Actually, many, many battle scenes - too many. Much of my work has been to strip out the propaganda that no longer resonates with a modern American audience and to refocus the story on the terrific characters and their brutal battle for power."

> **The caliber of acting showcased in this production was certainly its highlight, giving a wide variety of Muhlenberg students a chance to shine.**

For me, the story of the Clowns was the true story of *Glory* — told in mostly plain language and through characters whose actions appeared far less scripted and formal than those of the established members of Shakespeare's canon, the Clowns reach through to the viewer and help explain what has happened, what is happening, and what will happen as the story progresses. Though sometimes their confusion only exacerbated my own, they were overall extremely welcome additions to the dense original text.

> **"I feel generally neutral about Glory. There are some aspects of the show that I really enjoyed, and others that I found problematic or confusing,"**

Although the Clowns often serve as comedic relief by dancing, drinking, and donning pirate costumes, they were also central to several of the most impactful and gut-wrenching dramatic scenes of the play. In Act II, for instance, two drunken Clowns, played by Christian Gutierrez '18 and Elizabeth Stater '21, engage in a playful fight, throwing their pints of beer at each other's heads as they attempt to drown out the fear of impending battle. The remaining clowns form two camps, each backing one opponent, and supply the fighters with increasingly dangerous weapons, laughing and drinking all the while. Finally, the conflict and merriment come to a horrifying end when Gutierrez's character stabs Stater's with the pair of gardening shears, causing her to collapse at his feet. This death, unlike some of the others that the clowns suffer in the show, is permanent. Gutierrez slowly falls to his knees and looks up, fixing the audience with such a look of anguish that we can't help but give one back.

Though this aspect of the show was extremely effective, illustrating the inner conflict and plots of the nobility through characters that the audience could understand and identify with, some aspects were admittedly less so. The show was filled with ambient music, which usually but not always accompanied characters' conversations. Though I enjoyed the soundtrack when it consisted of instrumental songs that served to escalate the tension of the piece, such as when the young King Henry (expertly played by Chris Barron '18) and several other characters held tense discussions to a minor track with a driving beat, at other times the music distracted me from the story or seemed to cheapen moments of real dramatic impact and trauma.

Still, the show drew me in, particularly through the stellar performances of the actors. Act II was especially successful; I felt compelled to listen closely to both the Clowns and the Shakespearean dialogue, eager to keep up with a plot that continued to deteriorate in the best way possible. The stage combat was impeccably executed — theatre lecturer Michael G. Chin's "violence" credit is no joke, and the actors, particularly Drew Maidment '18 as Talbot and Laine Flores '20 as Joan, took on the massive challenge of engaging in realistic swordplay with results that were spectacular to watch. The plotting couples of the play, the Duke of Suffolk and Margaret of Anjou (Chris Torres '18 and Sophie Pulver '20, respectively) and the Duke of York and Warwick (Xavier Pacheco '19 and Lauren McGinty '18, respectively) were delightfully diabolical. Among the Clowns, Posie Lewis '20's dark, twisted persona lent the production a valuable sense of mystery and suspense. The caliber of acting showcased in this production was certainly its highlight, giving a wide variety of Muhlenberg students a chance to shine.

SEE **THE NEXT PAGE**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEN EK

FROM **THE PREVIOUS PAGE**

Incredible acting aside, *Glory* has incited an almost unprecedented level of polarization among its audience members, with opinions ranging from high praise to deep uncertainty. One audience member who wished to remain anonymous expressed that while their opinion of the performances given was indisputably high, other aspects of the production did not quite achieve the same level of success.

"I feel generally neutral about *Glory*. There are some aspects of the show that I really enjoyed, and others that I found problematic or confusing," the viewer said. "I personally had some trouble with the directing and the general plot; I felt like it was difficult to follow and found some of the lines unclear. I also thought some of the sensationalized elements of the show were unnecessary (i.e. the nudity or the sex scene). I didn't completely understand why they fit into the story and felt like they didn't add to my understanding or enjoyment of the show as a whole."

Though these concerns seem to be shared by many students, others, such as another viewer who also wished to remain anonymous, feel that the show's message and plot worked well to convey the deceit at the heart of Shakespeare's tale.

"I absolutely loved *Glory*, though I′m slightly biased from listening to close friends involved in the production talk about the process of creating the show," said this viewer. "As a fan of Shakespeare and Game of Thrones, *Glory* was definitely my cup of tea. It blended well-choreographed stage combat, corrupt politics, and morally questionable characters I wasn′t sure whether to hate or root for. The clowns, with their individually developed personas and moments of comedy interspersed with some of the most poignant moments in the show, were definitely a highlight for me ... *Glory* not only chronicles the corruption of an innocent ruler but makes the audience complicit in this corruption through their support of it."

In these dual camps of opinion, then, the production of *Glory* reflects itself. Whether you left the theatre wearing a red rose or a white one, there's no denying that each and every one of its audience members was made to feel *something*. The campus is talking, and *Glory* in itself has become yet another circle in the water. Will it ever ceaseth to enlarge itself? I suppose that's a question to ask in Spring 2019, when the trilogy's second part, O *War*, will storm the Empie stage.

Ellen McLaughlin embodies the feminine in Greek tragedy

By Lauren Mazur
Arts & Culture Co-Editor

Playwright, actor and educator Ellen McLaughlin spoke before Muhlenberg students and faculty last Sunday, discussing the brilliance and mysteries within ancient Greek tragedies.

As I approached the Recital Hall, the dark doors and green carpeting ever familiar, I found the seats flooded with people. Managing to find a spot towards the back, I patiently waited for the clock to read 8:00 PM and for the talk to begin. McLaughlin began with a statement of Greek culture and its contributions, specifically detailing how the Greeks gave birth to the foundation of both theatre and democracy. As McLaughlin described, they are "both dependent on speech" and "can only be done in collaboration."

Her love for Greek tragedy and story was contagious, as I found myself further inspired and influenced to trace the narratives and thought processes written within these literature works. The main focus of McLaughlin's talk was the placement of Greek women within the scopes of their tragic narratives: how they are viewed, how they are represented and how they are repressed.

A clear dichotomy was established between the feminine and the masculine, with men of war facing women of the hearth. McLaughlin trailed this discourse with the story of Agamemnon′s falling—while he returns victorious from the Trojan war, he is only greeted by the unexpected blade of his enraged wife, who, in her grief for her slaughtered daughter, finds she must take revenge on the man she had once called husband. McLaughlin explained how often Greek tragedies successfully execute "the draw of battle" with that of "its ugliness" and wretchedness. It seems only fitting for a man to face such irony.

"Every war is ironic," McLaughlin quoted, "because all wars are worse than expected."

The talk then revolved around three particular female figures that McLaughlin herself found particularly interesting: Penelope, "patience embodied," Iphigenia, a sacrifice, and Helen, a statue. Through her play *Iphigenia and Other Daughters,* McLaughlin enters the thoughts of these silenced women. What did Iphigenia think as she approached the marriage spot that would ultimately be her tomb? What of Helen, the very icon of the Trojan War, whose thoughts are meaningless compared to the importance of her body? And of Penelope, wife of Odysseus, who waits for her reason of existence? All these women are silenced, made simply as images of muted beauty, yet McLaughlin insisted on drawing attention to their voices, bringing them live and embodied for audiences to do nothing but listen.

"[McLaughlin] talking about the Greeks was a callback to my earliest theatre courses at Muhlenberg," Ben Dawn-Cross '20 described. "As she said, theatre began with the Greeks. Her interpretations of classic Greek plays was quite fascinating - rather than bury herself in already familiar text, she seemed to touch on an insightful approach to the plot, without losing sight of its retained significance."

It seems only fitting for a man to face such irony: "Every war is ironic," McLaughlin quotes, "because all wars are worse than expected."

Such insights included citing an academic analysis of the Odyssey and how it could have possibly been written by a woman, analyses which included but were not limited to insights into an incorporation of how laundry was done within the text. Then, of course, there is the journey that Odysseus himself goes through. As he returns from a bloody, unrepented battle, each trial he is put under relies on the mercy of women. Women, who find the world-weary man, nurse him, assist him and essentially revive him.

Dawn-Cross continues, "She drove this point home with her mention of Odysseus′ dog; she understood Odysseus′ struggles, and combined them with the natural emotional response to the scene."

As the Greeks created and established the foundation of theatre and democracy, McLaughlin re-established and re-embodied a feminist narrative within the classic that is Greek tragedy. It is "the personal, the private, the domestic" and "female presence" that she not only writes and focuses on, but in fact revives to a statute of promise - a promise to establish a voice for a long muted beauty.

Dr. Douglas Ovens presents his farewell concert

Cole Geissler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Dr. Douglas Ovens celebrates his career at 'Berg with this final performance, featuring original tunes and guest appearances by music faculty members.

By Arielle Moss
Contributing Writer

"The thing that has stayed constant in my musical life is that I write music that I love. My basic bias is that I tend to like music that is different from what I have heard before," wrote Dr. Ovens in the program of his farewell concert.

Alumni, current students and music lovers alike all gathered together to listen to Dr. Douglas Ovens' final concert at Muhlenberg College, on the evening of Apr. 10, in the Recital Hall. The concert was a part of The Contemporary Music Festival during Alumni Week.

Dr. Ovens has been a member of the music department for twenty-eight years and has served as a chair for the music department for eighteen years.

Before Dr. Ovens began composing music, he was a teacher's aide at Marshall High School in Portland, Oregon, during the day and played the drums at bars at night. He dropped out of college twice. Dr. Ovens explains that when he resigned from his job as a teachers' aide, he told the principal that he had just discovered that he had to become a composer. At this point in his life, at age 22, he did not know how to read music.

"I stayed up all night in Denny's restaurants memorizing the note names on music paper from my guitar lessons ... took the placement test for the theory sequence beginning in January at Portland Community College and eight years later had a PhD in composition," he wrote.

During his music career, Dr. Ovens has written over one-hundred pieces and performed in sixty to seventy cities around the United States and outside it, including Paris and Berlin.

The concert featured music composed by Dr. Ovens, who also conducted and played percussion, piano and the vibraphone during the concert.

Dr. Ovens' selection of original songs featured the premiere performance of "Music for a Crowded World" (2017), as well as "She Sings" three songs on texts of E.E. Cummings (1996), Largo (2001), "Improvisation 6B" for percussion and loud sounds (1998/2017), "Brightly Shining" (music box #2) (2005), "Yours and Mine," three songs on poems of Alice Fulton (2010), and "Sempre Forte (except when not) for piano, four hands" (2016).

"I like my music to seem to ask questions at least as often as it proposes answers. I take the position that if I like it, there is a good possibility some other human might like it, too," Dr. Ovens wrote.

Music lecturers Elizabeth Manus (piano), Alexandra Porter (soprano), Anthony Simons (clarinet), Audrey Simons (cello), James Thoma (marimba/percussion), Vincent Trovato (piano), and guest artist Julie Bougher (violin) also performed in the concert.

As Dr. Ovens described, "To say that music can change one's life would seem a redundancy here. But it did most assuredly change mine."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS&EDITORIALS

Editorial

If we stopped hosting lectures, who would care?

Why do you attend a guest speaker's lecture?

If your answer to that question is something other than 'because it was a required fourth hour event' or 'because my club sponsored the event,' come talk to us.

Muhlenberg rarely attracts speakers with enough name recognition to fill a lecture hall. Outside of the annual Center for Ethics programming, events are generally scattered amongst academic departments and interest groups. Too often, low attendance levels define these events.

This is not to say, however, that Muhlenberg students don't attend any lectures. In particular, this year's Center for Ethics events, with lectures on the theme of "Troubling Truth," saw some incredibly well-attended events.

Two of the speakers, Janaya Khan and Sa'ed Atshan, spoke to capacity audiences in the Miller Forum in November and February, respectively. The topics — Black Lives Matter and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with the issues of social justice and humanitarianism taking center stage — resonated with the College community, based not only on attendance, but also the conversations that took place both during and after each event. Although, it probably didn't hurt that many students were also required to attend these lectures by their professors.

So it would seem that when the topics strike a chord with our student body, attendance follows suit — but this is hardly a steadfast rule.

Take last week's gender violence talk, which was to be held in Seegers and featured a representative from the Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley. Unfortunately, the only audience member in the room was one of our editors on assignment and the event was cancelled. We can only hypothesize why no one showed up— was the event poorly advertised? Were too few students actively involved in the process? Regardless of the reason, our community missed the opportunity to have a conversation on an important and timely issue.

Is it crazy to expect that a liberal arts school would see large attendance numbers at all lectures? After all, the liberal arts hinges on the idea that learning is an ongoing process that occurs outside the classroom. In other words, shouldn't we want to absorb everything the College has to offer — especially when attending these lectures is essentially risk-free?

And these questions only give rise to additional, related questions of whether Muhlenberg is bringing speakers or topics to campus that students are even interested in. If not, how do we change that?

Maybe the solution is to have more 'themed' lecture series like the Center for Ethics, maybe it's to invest in less speakers and reallocate the funds to more expensive speakers — we don't know. What we do know is that the current situation, where attendance is largely driven by requiring it as a part of a class grade, negates the purpose of what it means to be a student at a liberal arts college.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Marching for our lives

In light of the recent shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, the 'March for Our Lives' brought together waves of activists concerned with the future of gun violence in America. Andrew Leahy '21 and Val Weissler '20 attended respective marches in Washington D.C. and Allentown and detail their experiences in solidarity.

Washington, D.C.

Purpose and conviction

By Andrew Leahy
Contributing Writer

The strident beams of the rising sun were cast through the bus as we crossed a river somewhere in Maryland. Despite a muted 4:00 a.m. alarm, tired fumbling in the vacant bathroom, and regrettably knocking on the door of a poor friend who nearly missed the report time — I reflect on this orange-tinted encounter as the waking moment of what would become a truly unforgettable day. Our arrival in D.C. was shortly thereafter, and the grueling earliness of our departure was betrayed by a mounting sense of energy — helped, of course, by some generous snacking and the chilly tinge in the air as we disembarked the bus. We were on a sleepy side-street, animated by sparse gatherings of marchers migrating toward the Mall. Soon we joined this pilgrimage of signs-under arms and jackets zipped-high, as Pennsylvania Avenue awaited on the other side, and the participants were already converging in force.

I am not reserved, and in fact find it necessary to admit that I was a bit nervous by then, not to mention in the days preceding Saturday, March 24. I had never participated in a march or a protest of any kind before, let alone in an event of this magnitude and coverage. I knew that we were marching for a cause which was controversial, charged, and complicated, and I expected this to become apparent as we maneuvered our way into (quite literally) the center of national attention. And so, entering the street, we joined a crowd with as many signs as there were heads, the pulsing of music from towers of speakers joined by panning images of protestors on the jumbotrons. It quickly became evocative of a concert for me, but a very different animal in that sense — after all, we were hoisting the message, with the nation and its lawmakers our audience.

I was immediately struck not only by the volume of signs but also by the diversity of messages they delivered. While the binding call for gun control was ubiquitous, the marchers represented a plethora of telling issues behind the problem, whether by appealing to the hallmark phrases of the movement, attacking the prospects of arming schools, articulating the gun dilemma of the inner-cities, targeting the empty promises of politicians, clarifying the second amendment and its disparities, berating the institutional corruption that informs the pervasiveness of gun culture, or inventing a few clever and cutting memes to satirize social and political motives.

This consolidated array of issues regarding gun policy in America was echoed as the speakers took the stage to amplify our forces. By now, the earlier reservations I expressed had perished, consumed by a sense of solidarity with the crowd, a sense of uniformity and purpose and conviction with the words that echoed down the street. In these moments the message was communicated to me, and I hope to others, that the issue of guns in America exceeds the atrocity of school shootings on which this movement was prompted; just as the signs were diverse, an array of speakers represented their causes, speaking for the neglected streets of DC, LA, speaking of the laxness of gun laws, the poverty of schools, and the infestation of security which so many in our removed and privileged circles overlook. While undeniably jarring, this was also empowering, to know that the students who admitted their capacities to host this movement were also giving voice to the voiceless — they used their platform to expound understanding of the intolerable dangers faced not only in schools and public venues, but in places of socio-economic exclusion, the gun an indubitable common denominator.

This, for me, became one of the resounding messages of the day. Captured in the calls of youthful activists, it gave me confidence in the prospects of our generation, not only to sober America's parasitic gun culture, but to create a more equitable, collaborative, and less complacent society. This was accentuated in the street, where I saw displays of solidarity, inclusivity, maturity, and conscientiousness that affirmed the conviction by which we mobilized ourselves (although the NRA would probably tell you otherwise).

To have been a part of this milestone for change is something that I will never forget. In the end, I think what's most important is that we keep the conversation going.

Allentown, P.a.

"Show up, stand up, speak up"

By Val Weisler
Senior Staff Writer

A few weeks after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, where 17 students were killed on February 14, 2018, I was babysitting a local first grade girl, Katie. Katie asked if we could read one more book before bedtime. I suggested we call it a night, because she had school the next morning. As I was about to walk out of her room, she asked, "Hey, do you practice hiding under your desk at college too?" I looked at her, stunned, and I stumbled to find the right words to answer. In actuality, yes; Muhlenberg had a lockdown drill earlier this semester. But the causality of this six-year-old's question was chilling. And as I thought more about it, it shouldn't have shocked me. This is an everyday part of life for young people, even more than it was for me and my peers in high school.

Katie's question continued to repeat in my head as I stood with another Muhlenberg student and an alum at the Allentown March For Our Lives on March 24, 2018. The Allentown rally was organized by Lehigh Valley for All in partnership with Allen-

SEE **MARCH** PAGE 9

from **March** page 8

town City Democratic Committee and the gun control organization CeaseFire PA. Organizers lined up several speakers, including local students and politicians. The speakers advocated for two main gun policies: that there should be a ban on assault rifle sales, and that teachers should not be armed. Hundreds of people came to the Allentown rally, advocating for tighter gun control for a variety of reasons. An Allentown gun owner, Maggie, stood at the rally with a sign that read "Voting with the NRA? We're voting the NRA out." Maggie stated that in Pennsylvania, the big argument is hunting. "No hunter hunts with assault rifles. There's no reason for it. No civilian needs a machine gun. It's about responsible gun legislation." Several political candidates and elected officials stood in front of the hundreds of Lehigh Valley locals, pledging to support universal background checks and not support arming teachers. They also vowed not to take NRA money.

Numerous research has shown that a high percentage of the national population is pro-gun control. The idea that NRA money is more powerful than a high percent of the population means that we are not simply in a fight for tighter gun control; we are in a fight for democracy. One of the speakers at the rally was Reverend Becca Mideke-Conlin, a pastor at a church near Sandy Hook Elementary, where 26 children and staff were killed in 2012.

Middeke-Conlin shared that one of her congregation members lost a grandson, Chris Hixon, in the Parkland shooting. "A lot of people are talking about thoughts and prayers. A lot of politicians say, after these mass shootings, that they are sending thoughts and prayers. I am here as a pastor to say that we need more than thoughts and prayers after a mass shooting." Middeke-Conlin said, before leading us in a cheer of "Policy and change, not thoughts and prayers!"

Many local high school students spoke. In their speeches, they acknowledged that the issue of gun violence is not secular to schools. Gun violence happens in our streets and in our homes, especially in communities of color. The Parkland teenagers have acknowledged the hypocrisy of how black youth are treated when they protest gun violence in their communities versus how the Parkland teenagers, who are primarily white, have been treated in their advocacy. Parkland activists, such as Emma González, have met with young people of color across the country, such as the student advocates of color from Chicago. Just like in all of our movements, intersectionality is vital. We have a responsibility to pay attention to violence when it happens to white children, to black children, to immigrant children, and to native children across our nation. We must march — and then we must vote. We must show up for the victims of gun violence nationally, and the victims of gun violence in the Lehigh Valley. We must make sure we are supporting the conversations happening on and off campus.

Four ways to show up, speak up, and stand up:

POWER Northeast, an organization committed to interrupting oppressive and inequitable systems that have historically, negatively impacted communities of color and poor white communities in the Lehigh Valley, holds weekly resistance meetings every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. at 916 W Turner St. in Allentown.

Subscribe to the Lehigh Valley Progressive Events Calendar, sent out every month with ways to get involved in local activism. Email tomulrich41@gmail.com to get the update.

Go to Tuesdays With Toomey in Allentown, which occur every Tuesday at noon at 1150 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.

Vote in national and local elections. The midterm elections are May 15. Go to usa.gov/register-to-vote if you are not yet registered.

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I don't stop at red lights

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

That's right. You read that headline correctly. I don't stop at red lights when driving. When the car I am operating approaches a traffic light, which happens to be on the red setting, I stay the course. What can I say? It makes me feel like a man.

All of you must be thinking, "Dang Will, that's cool stuff. How do you do it?" Well, if you have to ask, you don't know and you will never know. Actually, you know what? If you are lame enough to have to ask how to run through a red light, then you can't read my words. Everyone has to stop reading here.

That was a test, if you are reading this, then you passed and I'll tell you how to run red lights. You just do it. Put your feet on the gas pedal, then press the zoom button and you are off. The most important part is that you can't stop at a red light, just keep them toes on the gas.

Yeah, that's pretty much it. And, uhh, yeah.

So, that's about it. I mean, jeez man, I don't know. I've been doing this stuff for like 10 years and I am burnt out. I've lost it. I had the magic juices all up in my bones, they were swishing and swashing about in there and, my god, it got crazy. I'd just sit down and, much like my hero Rumpelstiltskin, I'd weave gold. But now, the magic has dried up and I am closer to a rump roast than I've ever been to a Rumplestiltskin. I mean, look at that joke. A rump roast? That's not funny, that's not comedy. Heck, I am sitting here writing this, as you read it, and I'm struggling to write enough words, so please read slow.

I had the magic juices all up in my bones, they were swishing and swashing about in there and, my god, it got crazy.

I mean come on, look at that pull quote. It's fricking huge! It is obnoxiously large, and there is nothing I can do about it. I'm sorry guys, it's been tough since the kids left. I'd say this doesn't represent me, but at this point it does! If you guys hate me, I totally get it, even I hate me. I implore you, avert thine eyes to mine downfall. I am but a small man typing on an even smaller typewriter at a fairly small liberal arts college. Please hate me, I don't deserve the praise you usually throw at me, if you need a reminder why, look to my rump roast joke. But also, go easy on me, I'm just a kid from the farm and I don't do well with city talk. I'm so alone. If you can help me be funny again, I'll be on Facebook.

Matt D'Ambrosia's player of the week award well deserved

Rotation holds opponents in check through first third of Conference Play

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

Matthew D'Ambrosia '20 is a big dude.

A pitcher for the Muhlenberg baseball team, his 6'3" frame can be intimidating and, considering he appears ten inches taller while standing on the pitcher's mound, it is easy to see why the right-hander has earned the nickname "Big Cat."

D'Ambrosia is part of a pitching staff who has been absolutely stellar during Centennial Conference play through the team's first six games. Although the team sits in the middle of the pack — currently with a 3-3 conference record — the staff has recorded a 1.76 ERA (lowest in the conference), allowed only 10 ER, given up 45 hits (second lowest in conference), struck out 50 (third best) and surrendered just 19 walks (second lowest).

D'Ambrosia, along with Timmy Pilrun '18, RJ Hennessey '19 and Paul Poppert '21, have started Centennial Conference matchups and the team has also received valuable relief appearances from Truman Devitt '21, Sam Kasten '18, oh... and also D'Ambrosia, who leads the team in saves (2).

This past week, Big Cat was awarded the Centennial Conference co-pitcher of the week for his outing against Dickinson College. The rare night game was played under the lights at a turf facility, Maplezone Sports Institute, due to unplayable conditions at both colleges' fields. D'Ambrosia's final line was a complete game three-hitter, with one walk and 15 strikeouts, facing just four batters over the minimum.

D'Ambrosia has also developed an essential aspect of every successful pitcher's arsenal: a true out pitch. For D'Ambrosia, it happens to be a slider.

"Going into my outings, my mindset has been to trust my stuff and throw strikes. Attack every hitter and make them hit me," says D'Ambrosia. "I have a ton of confidence in all of my pitches, so I go into even game knowing that I am going to just pitch my game and go right at every batter."

That confidence has lead Todd Gross, head coach, to also have confidence in D'Ambrosia in other roles; however, regardless of the role, D'Ambrosia has an approach.

"Starting and relieving are definitely different because I have to pace myself more in a start. I need to throw more innings in my starts and go deep into games," D'Ambrosia explained. "When I come in relief, I can let it loose a little bit more and can go max effort on every pitch because I am only going for an inning or two at a time."

D'Ambrosia's 2018 success can largely be attributed to how hard the righty worked in the offseason to condition and "get in shape," as he said himself. The payoff has been especially noticeable later in games, where D'Ambrosia says he can continue to throw high-quality pitches longer than before.

"I'm not afraid to go at any hitter and challenge them. I have confidence in my abilities and am wiling to pitch my game no matter who I'm pitching against."

"Getting in better shape has helped me go deeper in games and have my best stuff in the late innings to finish games," he said. "Last season my longest outing was 6 innings and so far this season I have thrown games where I have gone 8 innings and 9 innings."

D'Ambrosia has also developed an essential aspect of every successful pitcher's arsenal: a true out pitch. For D'Ambrosia, it happens to be a slider.

"My slider which has become my go to strikeout pitch and has helped me put away hitters this year," he said. That slider certainly gave the Dickinson hitters a tough time in the pitcher's award winning performance.

Overall, D'Ambrosia has an effective mentality and method to carry his success throughout the rest of the Mules' Conference season.

"What makes me an effective pitcher is having a consistent mix of all 4 of my pitches throughout games and throwing strikes," he said. "Mixing up my pitches keeps batters off balance and gives me the advantage. I'm not afraid to go at any hitter and challenge them. I have confidence in my abilities and am willing to pitch my game no matter who I'm pitching against."

**All stats through Monday, April 9*

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from **Lacrosse** page 12

the team's seven games. With the Mules leading 2-1 with 5:55 remaining in the first quarter, Ethan Grossman '21 netted his second goal on the night. Niko Del Moro '18 followed it up with a goal of his own, and Declan Moylan '20 tacked on another to make it three goals for the men in just 3:16 to make it 5-1.

An early highlight to the season came at home against Scranton on Feb. 24, in the team's third game of the year. Trailing by a pair of goals with just 4:17 remaining in the contest, the men scrapped a pair of goals from Jack Colt '20 and Bobby McLoughlin '20 together to tie the game. Then, with just 1:32 left on the clock, Nate Emrick '21 netted his second goal on the night, giving the Mules a thrilling 9-8 victory. That win served as a momentum booster for the team, and the men rode that momentum all the way to 8-0.

Going into conference play, the Mules were riding high. And though they dropped their first two Centennial contests to tough opponents in Haverford and Gettysburg, 11-9 and 18-11 respectively, the team is still optimistic about its chances going forward. "Although we were excited about the outcome of our out of conference success, in-conference is a chance to prove how talented and well-coached we actually are," said defenseman Joey Goret '20. "We're looking forward to the challenge of nationally ranked teams and hope to get our first conference win in a couple years."

The energy surrounding this team is far different from years past. A big part of that is a freshman class that as a whole has been stellar in their first year of play. After last season, the roster and starting lineup received a lot of new blood. The turnover has certainly paid off, as the Mules are producing more consistently offensively than they have for years.

As for the defense, they couldn't ask for more. Pope has been a steady hand between the pipes, while the defense has stymied opponents' attacks. The men have their sights on the program's first winning season in years, and a possible conference tournament berth.

With six conference games remaining, the Mules are looking to get hot again at the right time. Their next matchup will come at home against Swarthmore on Apr. 11. "We're looking forward to our remaining conference games as opportunities to finally get that elusive conference win," Goret said.

Men's Lacrosse celebrates after a goal from PJ Lombara '21.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Spring Track performs in winter weather

By Josh Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg men's and women's track and field teams have begun the outdoor season off well. It has been a total team effort with both newcomers and veterans placing high at the meets.

At the Lafayette 8-way Invitational the Mules competed against schools from the Division I, II and III levels with nearby schools such as Moravian, Lehigh and Lafayette took part in the meet. Emily Mitchell '21 had an excellent first career outdoor meet as she placed first in the long jump and second in the triple jump. Mitchell is building off of a stellar indoor season where she placed eighth in her first ever Muhlenberg meet, a first place finish at the Muhlenberg home invite in the long jump, and placed fourth in the long jump in the Centennial Conference Championships. Classmate Evan Giannetti '21 made his Muhlenberg debut by placing first in the javelin, which was the eighth best throw in school history.

Throwers Jess Voltaggio '18 and Michael Havkins '18 also had a tremendous performance at Lafayette. Voltaggio finished first in the discus, setting a new career best, and Havkins came in second in the discus. Havkins, the defending Centennial Conference champion in the discus was named Centennial Conference field athlete of the week after posting the top discus throw in the Centennial Conference so far this season.

The following week the Mules continued their success on the track and in the fieldhouse at home in the Muhlenberg Invitational. Havkins continued his stellar start to the outdoor season placing first in the discus and qualified for the ECAC.

Fellow thrower Erik Berger '19 placed fourth and also qualified for the ECAC. On the track, star distance runners Anthony Calantoni '18 and Corey Mullins '19 finished second and third respectively and both qualified for the ECAC.

The other first place finish for the Mules came from distance runner Emily Davidson '18 in the 800 meters posting ECAC qualifying time of just under 2:18.48. The women's team had three more ECAC qualifiers including Jamie Pacilio '18 in the 1500 meters, Alison Stouffer '20 and Alana Noehrenberg '21 in the high jump.

The Mules' success for the outdoor season so far has started with a year-long preparation that began in August. Head Track Coach Brad Hackett states that "we have been preparing all year for this outdoor season – the distance runners came back to start the cross country season on Aug. 20 and have been working hard ever since then, the non-distance runners started working offseason workouts the beginning of September and we started actual practice the end of October – so we have been getting ready for this outdoor season for a long time."

The hard work has surely paid off, and both veterans and newcomers have grown tremendously since preparation for the season began back in the fall. Going forward the Mules should continue their momentum from the first two full team outdoor meets and expect the Mules to have success both now and in the future.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Ben Miller-Sobel '20 rears back to launch the javelin at the Muhlenberg Invitational.

Hackett exclaims, "We have a great mix of freshmen and upperclassmen on our team - we have a very good freshmen class which will help us for years to come and we have several seniors who should make it to the outdoor NCAA championship. The success of the seniors will certainly help the freshmen as they strive to improve."

The Mules' next meet is at Bucknell in the Bison Outdoor classic on Apr. 14. The team is looking to build off of the momentum from the first two meets and continue their quest to place high in the Centennial Conference Championship and possibly have some members qualify for the NCAA championships.

Crashing the course:

Berg's golfers swing their way to the top of the leaderboards early in season

Maria Horvath '18 winds up in the tee box.

By Steven Shoemaker
Staff Writer

The women's golf team has been on a roller coaster of a ride so far this season — facing adversity, injuries and weather conditions making it difficult for the team to be on the golf course as much as they want to be.

Aine Filler, a junior and reigning Centennial Conference Player of the Week, recently placed very high in her outings. On Tuesday, Apr. 10, Filler shot a season-low 82 in the Ursinus Spring Invitational to place first by a stroke. The tournament victory was the fourth in her career.

But in general, course availability has been very slim, due to the constant snow and bad weather that has been hitting the Lehigh Valley.

"We still have a long season ahead of us, but not having the opportunity to practice definitely affects the teams progress," said Filler.

Fortunately, the team is provided with a golf simulator that is placed in the Life Sports Center. "There is always more work that needs to be done on both a team and personal level," stated Filler.

Regardless, the five-girl roster, along with head coach John Librick, has done everything that they can to stay positive.

The Centennial Conference has always been very competitive for the lady Mules. To make it even more competitive, the Conference added two new teams (Marymount and Neumann) that the Mules will face off against in tournaments this upcoming season.

Last season, the women were able to win three tournaments in a row before the conference championship. They look to build off of that success this season, as they have a total of six tournaments left before the 2018 championship. The remaining six outings will be over a short time span, because of regulations mandating the tournaments be complete before the championships.

The team also has a really good relationship with their head coach, Coach Librick. It can be challenging for them at times to get his full attention because he also has to coach the men's team as well. On the other hand, the women like that Librick coaches both teams because it brings them closer together. they find it useful to practice with the men because the teams can learn from each other.

Most people think of golf as being a solo sport, but in terms of invitationals, the women must work together in order to beat the other teams that they are competing against in their conference. Coach Librick makes sure that the two teams stick together and do everything they can to make each other better golfers.

The women have a big season ahead of them and they refuse to let any bad weather or injury get in their way. Ultimately, the women have high expectations and expect to place very well in the Centennial standings this year.

"I see ourselves placing really well at the tournament and some of us even making the All-Conference team," said Filler.

from **Hackett** page 12

USA Track and Field — Hackett came to the small liberal arts college in Allentown, Pa.

"Coaching is coaching — trying to help someone improve," said Hackett. "But more importantly, I think coaching is an extension of the educational process and if I can help a college student mature even a little bit, then I have done my job."

It's his ability to make a difference in students' lives, in addition to Muhlenberg's combination of collegiate athletics and top-tier academics, that have kept Hackett coaching the Mules nearly twenty years. After six years as the national triple jump chairman and overall development chairman for seven years, he made the decision to focus his attention solely on Muhlenberg's team.

"I love coaching at Muhlenberg," said Hackett. "I love the students on our team and it is a great deal more fun than the 15 years I spent coaching at the Division I level. Our team has had over 40 people go on to medical school in the time that I have been here; you cannot say that at the DI level."

Under Hackett, the Mules have broken or tied more than 80 school records and have boasted 25 All-Americans. Hackett's commitment to the success of Muhlenberg's track and field program — and his connection with his student-athletes — was thrown into the spotlight during this year's Mule Madness, the annual athletic department fundraiser.

In short, Mule Madness is a friendly competition between Muhlenberg's 22 varsity athletic teams to see who can raise the most money for their program in a short amount of time.

This year, Hackett decided to make a friendly wager, taking to social media in an attempt to get alumni and current students to support the program.

"I posted on Facebook for the track alumni that I would run the 100 meters in our home meet if we had 50 alumni that donated at least $100 to the track program, and if all of the current members of our team donated as well," said Hackett. "Although we did not quite reach the goal, we were close enough that I needed to hold up my end of the bargain. So I ran the 100 in our team meet."

For the track and field team, Mule Madness was a success. Not only did the team raise over $10,000 for their program, they got to witness their long time coach and staple of the athletic department compete in his first Muhlenberg race — and most likely last, at least until next year's Mule Madness.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Pitching performs

Sophomore Matt D'Ambrosia's Player of the Week award is a testament to the growing strength of the Mules pitching staff. Read more on page 10.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Starting strong:

Men's Lacrosse on eight game streak now looking for historic Conference win

By Max Shapiro
Staff Writer

Excellence. Something that the men's lacrosse team has been far from in past seasons, yet it's what the squad has experienced so far this year. After going 8-0 in their first eight contests, the Mules put together the best start in the program's history. They were the only undefeated team remaining in the Centennial Conference and received votes in the D3 National Rankings.

In addition, they also tied the school record of eight straight wins. After going 2-12 in 2017, the team has already more than doubled last season's win total, and has more victories than the last two years combined.

The men's latest victories came in the form of a 16-2 thrashing of local rival Moravian on St. Patrick's Day, and 15-2 win over FDU-Florham. Against Moravian, forward Scott Fayan '20 led the Mules with four goals on just four shots while goalie Garrett Pope '20 recorded nine saves and gave up just one goal in 40 minutes of play. The starting defense combined to completely stifle the Greyhounds offensive attack, holding them to just 13 shots on goal throughout the night.

The team's sixth win came in a hard fought, snowy battle against Drew on Mar. 14. As the game wore on, snow began to accumulate on the field and pace of play slowed down significantly. After conceding an early 1-0 lead, the men rattled off eight unanswered goals, while holding Drew scoreless for the next 52 minutes.

In that time, Pope racked up 11 saves, reaching double digits in saves for the fourth time in

see **Lacrosse** page 10

Brad can still "Hackett"

Head Track and Field Coach Brad Hackett believes that his players' success is more than just winning

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Brad Hackett took to the track and ran in an actual race at the 2018 Spring Muhlenberg Invitational.

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

Brad Hackett started competing in track during his freshman year of high school. A self-proclaimed "halfway decent" high jumper, teenaged Hackett didn't know then that his after-school sport would turn into a lifelong career.

But that's exactly what happened for Muhlenberg College's Director of Cross Country & Track and Field, and Head Track Coach — dedicating his life to the sport, moving from the track to the sidelines.

Even while still attending Colgate University, Hackett knew he wanted to become a coach, a passion and career path cemented in the bond his father and him had shared through sports. He worked as an assistant coach at Colgate and Bucknell University before moving to Syracuse University, calling upstate New York home for almost 10 years.

Then, he left Syracuse to go into track and field equipment sales, only to discover he didn't like it.

"I was coaching a Canadian Olympian who happened to be in Barbados," said Hackett. "I was down there coaching her on my vacation and was doing something as simple as digging out the long jump pit at the Barbados national track, and I realized I needed to get back into college coaching. The Muhlenberg opportunity came along and I took it."

After years of coaching Division I and Olympic athletes — as well as being an integral part of

see **Hackett** page 11

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Saturday Special

Baseball

Muhlenberg vs ***McDaniel***

Saturday, Apr. 14 @ 12:30 pm
Cedar Creek Park

Softball

Muhlenberg vs ***McDaniel***

Saturday, Apr. 14 @ 1:00 pm
Westminster, MD

Men's Lacrosse

Muhlenberg vs ***McDaniel***

Saturday, Apr. 14 @ 1:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

Women's Lacrosse

Muhlenberg vs ***McDaniel***

Saturday, Apr. 14 @ 4:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

For Colored Girls

Apr. 26-28

Ntozake Shange's choreopoem displays pain, joy, and above all, love. Look behind the scenes on page 5.

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NEWS

Glenn Gerchman discusses 25Live, The Vendor & Solicitation Policy and how organizations are able to promote and fundraise in Seegers.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

The Bad Ones, 'Berg's newest performance group, takes the stage — changing our own outlook on what it means to be a comedy group on campus.

read more on 5

OP/ED

Alyssa Curtis '20 talks about her experience as a runner and how the culture surrounding running supports self-destruction in the name of passion.

read more on 8

SPORTS

For the first time in four years, the Men's Lacrosse team won a Centennial Conference matchup and hopes to shock many going into the final Conference matches.

read more on 12

Shaving heads and saving lives

Photo Courtesty of Muhlenberg Athletics

Muhlenberg baseball's yearly fundraiser for pediatric cancer ranks the 16th most lucrative in all three divisions of the NCAA. Read more on 10.

Ithaca wins ninth annual Innovation Challenge

By Chloe Gravereaux
Asst. Managing Editor

On April 12, Wescoe student Josh Ajamu '20 won the ninth annual Innovation Challenge with his web platform Ithaca, which aims to make more lawyers accessible to refugees.

Ajamu represented one of eight student-created businesses who, with the help of an alumni mentor, delivered six minute pitches in the Seegers Union Event Space to three entrepreneurial judges as part of the "Shark-tank"-like competition called The Innovation Challenge. Ajamu was the first to present, then had to leave early to attend another event.

"I was not expecting to win," said Ajamu. "It was the last thing on my mind. I presented because I wanted to pitch the idea to as many people as possible, and potentially find a computer science and developer whom might be interested in joining me in making Ithaca a reality."

Second place and $500 went to Ana, a focusing software for phones, laptops, and Apple Watches created by Tom Littrell '18, Laura Styer '20, Patrick Kantner '20 and Kendrick Weingast '20. The "anti-app" creates three customized home screens that display select apps that help the user focus, go, or relax.

"We wanted a way to self-discipline and use the phone as a tool instead of just getting lost in it," said Littrell.

The group was also entirely non-business majors, which they viewed as a strength.

"One of the cool things about us is that we all come from humanities backgrounds, none of us are business people," said Weingast, who is a Theatre major with an Acting and Directing concentration.

"We thought that would be our unique angle in the competition," Littrell, a Media and Communication major and Religion Studies minor, added. Kantner and Styer are Neuroscience and Philosophy majors.

Third place and $250 winner was Retro Renovations, created by Jordan Curtis '21. Curtis 3D printed models of his product, called extra life adaptors, which aid in saving progress on retro games.

"I haven't slept over the last week. It took me nine hours to make that spinning logo. Three hours to make that logo, six hours to figure out how to make it spin. Countless visits with people, rewriting scripts and contacting Gamestop, creating the powerpoint. It took a lot. I'm proud that I made it this far," said Curtis.

"I was surprised, I'm honored," said Curtis "I'm really just glad that all the hard work that I've put in and the people who have helped me paid off."

The audience favorite was Party DJ, a music playlist app created by Shana Joseph '18 and Michael Kovach '18, both Computer Science majors.

Marie Grace Imanariyo '20 presented African Rockit, a business where individuals order African-made attire through an app and college-aged ambassadors bring the items to the U.S. Although she's skeptical about launching her company on her own, Imanariyo wants to pursue the project.

"I keep thinking about it since I've been part of the competition." said Imanariyo. "I believe that I'm not going to let the idea die."

Jake Solomon '18 and David Ossa '18 pitched Capture, a social media feed that connects film companies with trending, independent filmmakers.

The idea for the Let's Party app, pitched by James Kavanagh '21 and Victor Jacobs '21, came

see **Innovation** page 3

When Facebook fails

Ali Watson
Senior Staff Writer

This week there were major developments in the Cambridge Analytica investigation.

Here's what you need to know:

As explained by Muhlenberg's Chief Information Officer, Allan Chen, "Cambridge Analytica is a data analytics company that works on voter profiles."

"It is a consultancy company that aims to 'change audience behavior' through the use of data," Chen said.

The data was obtained by Cambridge Analytica using an app found on Facebook's site, which harvested personal information.

The investigation that is currently taking place into Cambridge Analytica revolves around their procurement of personal data of Facebook users without their consent.

"Through a third party application built on the Facebook platform, it gathered personal information for as many as 87 million separate users (at Facebook's last estimation). This data was used to build voter profiles, which in turn were used by at least the Trump administration in its campaign," Chen continued.

Cambridge professor Aleksandr Kogen designed a data collection application in conjunction with the firm, which not only collected the information of the user signing onto the app, but the data of their network as well. In an interview the BBC conducted with Christopher Wylie, the whistleblower of the New York Times investigation, Wylie explains how the data was then used to make psychological inferences based on Facebook 'likes.' Somewhat more frightening is that the user had no idea any of this was taking place.

The major goal was to "create a distrust among established institutions," according to the New York Times, making the users trapped in a new reality and thus behaving differently.

The enlightening information emerging from the New York Times investigation perhaps explains the rise of the Fake News phenomena. It more so prompts

see **Analytics** page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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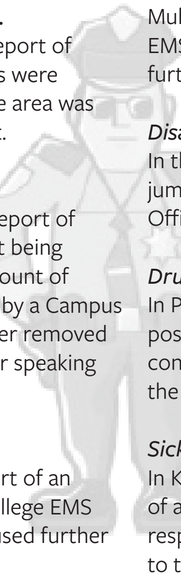
We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety



Monday, April 9
Found Property — 8:47 p.m.
In Seegers Union there was a report of a found key. The item was later returned to the owner.

Wednesday, April 11
Vehicle Assist — 8:18 p.m.
On Chew Street a Campus Safety Officer responded to a report of keys being locked in a vehicle. The keys were successfully retrieved from the vehicle.

Thursday, April 12
Disorderly Conduct — 1:33 a.m.
On Liberty Street there was a report of a noise complaint. The residents were identified and spoken to and the area was cleared with no further incident.

Vehicle Violation — 10:00 a.m.
In the Prosser Lot there was a report of a vehicle illegally parked without being registered with an excessive amount of tickets. The vehicle was booted by a Campus Safety Officer. The boot was later removed by a Campus Safety Officer after speaking with the owner of the vehicle.

Injured Student — 10:53 p.m.
In Prosser Hall there was a report of an injured student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student refused further treatment or transport.

Friday, April 13
Lost Property — 11:45 a.m.
There was a report of a lost camera.

Point of Information — 3:39 p.m.
In the New Science Building there was a report of an unsecure area. The reporting party was spoken to and an investigation is to continue.

Suspicious Activity — 7:14 p.m.
In Village 4 there was a report of suspicious activity, the individuals were identified and spoken to. Student Health Services were contacted and there was no further incident.

Saturday, April 14
Drug Violation — 1:00 p.m.
In Walz Hall there was a report of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. The items were confiscated by Campus Safety and placed in the evidence locker. A covered smoke detector and several burnt candles were also noted and Residential Services were notified.

Sick Visitor — 2:00 p.m.
There was a report of a sick visitor, Muhlenberg College EMS and Allentown EMS responded. The individual refused further treatment or transport.

Disabled Vehicle — 3:05 p.m.
In the Prosser Lot there was a report to jump start a vehicle and a Campus Safety Officer successfully started the vehicle.

Drug Violation — 5:40 p.m.
In Prosser Hall there was a report of possession of marijuana which was confiscated by Campus Safety and placed in the evidence locker.

Sick Student — 9:53 p.m.
In Kathryn Taylor Hall there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student was transferred to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Disabled Vehicle — 10:00 p.m.
In the Martin Luther Lot there was a report of damage found to a windshield causing a crack. It is unknown what caused the damage and the individual was advised to contact their insurance company.

Sunday, April 15
Disorderly Conduct — 1:05 a.m.
In Robertson Hall there was a report of disorderly conduct. The individuals were identified and spoken to with no further incident.

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Tabling talks: How organizations promote in Seegers

By Sydney Coplin
Asst. News Editor

On a daily basis, representatives from the various on-campus clubs spend hours at a time tabling in Seegers Union to promote and fundraise for their respective organizations. With the tables strategically placed directly facing the Union's entrance, it is nearly impossible to not catch a glimpse while walking through the red doors.

"Any college department or student organization in good standing may reserve a market table," says Glenn Gerchman, the Director of Seegers Union & Campus Events. "The market tables are managed as part of 25Live and follow the same protocols for reserving other locations such as the Event Space or the Student Life Conference Room."

25Live is the software used for scheduling events across campus. While anybody with a Muhlenberg College network login can access it, only faculty, staff, and certain student leaders from on-campus organizations can use it to reserve event spaces like tabling in Seegers.

"We ask for reservation requests to be submitted at least two weeks in advance, but we do our best to accept requests for available market tables with shorter notice whenever possible," notes Gerchman.

In terms of availability, if the building is open, then tables are free for reservation. The typical time periods for Seegers tabling range from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2 p.m.-5 p.m. These time slots hit the highest traffic throughout the lobby.

Of course, there are exceptions for when tabling is not prohibited.

"During College signature events such as Family Weekend and Alumni Weekend, for example, we do not accept reservations for solicitation as we want to keep the focus on our guests and not have them feel like they're being pressured into making purchases or taking the focus off of event activities" explains Gerchman.

The language of solicitation that Gerchman refers to comes from the Vendor Sales & Solicitation Policy. According to the introduction to the policy, which can be found on the Muhlenberg College website on the Seegers Union page:

"The College feels that student organizations should be provided with opportunities to raise their own program funds through fund raising activities. In order to provide a means of protecting the College, the student organization and each member of the College Community from undue intrusion and provide fair access for legitimate activities, the following guidelines and restrictions have been approved."

The policy itself is split up into 10 points, and goes over guidelines relating to finances, unpermitted solicitation activities, specific approvals needed for certain requests and more.

An example of a specific office that has had to provide approval in the past is the Treasurer's Office.

"I must say that it's been quite some time since our office has been asked to review or sign off on a request to table, or solicit, in Seegers," recollects Jason Feiertag, Assistant Treasurer. "That being said, our office typically gets involved when there are any questions involving liabilities, risks or business that might conflict with our on-campus providers such as the Bookstore and Sodexo Dining Services."

Outside vendors also have to go through a certain process to be able to solicit in Seegers, explains Gerchman.

"Vendors or non-College organizations do not have direct access to reserve a table," says Gerchman. "If a vendor, such as the poster sale or jewelry vendor, or even a student wanting to sell wares, has an interest in selling on campus, they must be sponsored by a college department or student organization."

Collaboration with the Office of Student Engagement is typically necessary in order to pair vendors with on-campus organizations.

"Usually vendors reach out to our office to try and sell things on campus," explains Ellen Lentine, Associate Director of Student Engagement for Student Activities and Events. "If I, or someone else in Student Life, happen to be already working with a group who is trying to raise funds, we will connect the vendor in the organization."

Ian Adler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Samara Jones '18 (left) and Michaela Colahan '21 (right) table for WMUH to raise money for the station.

Sometimes a group may not currently be fundraising. In that case, Lentine notes, "If a vendor contacts our office and we do not know of any groups currently needing fundraising assistance, I will try to connect that vendor to like-minded organizations."

Lentine provides a hypothetical example of a vendor selling yarn, and how they would be paired with an organization like Knit Wits.

"We rely on student organizations to be stewards of the programs supported through the market tables" says Gerchman.

There is definitely an urge to pay special attention to who is coming into Seegers, especially following the solicitation incident this past February where two women approached multiple students asking about "God the Mother."

Other instances mimicking it make it evident that students should be conscientious about who they are giving their contact information to. Future revisions to the Sales & Solicitation Policy will also be made as needed to ensure that those entering and officially promoting in Seegers are warranted to do so.

This summer, there will be an assessment of the current policy. "If deemed necessary, we will work with campus stakeholders and the Seegers Union Student Advisory Board (SUSAB) to review changes and update in the fall," notes Gerchman.

FROM **ANALYTICS** PAGE 1

a deeper discussion on "functional democracy," as phrased by Wylie, through deciphering what is real and what is not.

What's happening now?

Alexander Nix has been suspended due to a compromising recording of the CEO being linked to potential bribery and entrapment.

Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, also recently testified before a congressional committee on the matter. What will be more consequential for the CEO are the potential actions the FTC may or may not take in their impending investigation on Facebook's privacy practices.

"Facebook for many years has been based on wide open standards. Application developers involved in the CA scandal have taken advantage of these lax restrictions to gain access to information far beyond what is normally needed for that app to operate," said Chen.

How does this apply to the Muhlenberg community?

So how does this happen, and what should we look out for?

"The app required access not only to those that downloaded and installed it but to that person's entire network of friends. It is therefore possible that personal information such as name, address, what you've 'liked,' etc. [has been accessed]," said Chen.

"It's like installing a gaming app that for some reason asks for access to your entire phone's contents," Chen explained.

For many Facebook users like Muhlenberg student Kathryn Ambroze '18, "Facebook is a means to connect with friends and coordinate events"

"Facebook is a free tool to connect with people, and although I believe Facebook should be more transparent about the way they use our information — this scandal did not come at a shock to me, especially because of the nature of this past election," Ambroze continued.

As pointed out by Muhlenberg student Samara Jones '18, "It is no secret that we are being targeted by marketing campaigns. However, in the context of a political campaign, the outcome has an effect on shaping the world."

"We all objectively understood that it was taking data but for private gains, not necessarily for public ones," Jones continued. "[sites like this one are] not necessarily just taking my data, but my friends' data … I can't make that decision [to forfeit 'private' information] for them."

Furthermore, says Jones, "Mining data to sell as something only impacts the individual, whereas mining it for political purposes effects everyone."

Both Ambroze and Jones say they will keep their Facebook accounts. However, Jones says that she will certainly be more precarious and mindful when using the site.

Similarly, Ambroze says "I do not post anything that I would be uncomfortable having my parents, a boss or a professor see."

Ambroze continued, "Even though I do keep my settings private, the first wall of protection is deciding what is appropriate to post."

What should 'Berg students do? Are there extra precautions that should be taken?

Aside from completely erasing all traces of one's Facebook account, which is not possible, not a lot can be done to entirely secure an individual's information. Furthermore, should we need to?

What is the balance between contributing to a digital community and sharing too much?

Chen suggests, "Users should be always checking on what security requirements an app is requesting and asking themselves if such allowances make sense or not, or at the least if you're comfortable with such re-

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FROM **INNOVATION** PAGE 1

about when Jacobs hosted an open party that no one attended. The application would connect party hosts to students looking for parties, and include discounts from Uber and an Emergency Medical Services button to encourage safe partying.

College Crate, a subscription box service with a twist, was presented by Brooke Greenberg '21 and her roommate Lilly Shuman '21, both wearing matching fluorescent green shirts with their logo. Read more about Greenberg's experiences in Opinion, page 9.

Director of Innovation & Entrepreneurship Program Rita Chesterton, who hosted the event and aided most of the students in writing and practicing their pitches, complimented students' dedication.

"We had probably the widest range of ideas that we had, as well as the largest group of students in a few years," said Chesterton. "There are quite a few ideas too where the students had created the app or moved forward in starting the company, and so it's great to see that progress from something that is an idea to something that is real."

"[The Innovation Challenge] is an opportunity for anyone with an idea. Ideas can come from anywhere. People see a problem and want to create a solution," said Chesterton. "What entrepreneurship does is it just gives you those tools to help make that process easier, and to help you learn from the successes and failures of others."

The Innovation Challenge was started in 2010 and is a product of both the Innovation and Entrepreneurial program and the Office of Alumni affairs. The competition is held every spring.

This Week in Muhlenberg History:

A glimpse at the history of Commencement Speakers

By Karl Schultz
Senior Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Archives

Coretta Scott King delivers a Commencement speech in 1988.

When it comes to most aspects of Muhlenberg College, its history is long and varied. The same is especially true in regards to commencement speakers at graduation.

It was recently announced that when the class of 2018 dons their caps and gowns, they will listen to a commencement address from Dr. Robert Loeffler. Dr. Loeffler is a Muhlenberg alum and has served with Doctors Without Borders and aided in the Haitian earthquake relief efforts. Though the content of his speech is yet unknown, it will likely follow a pattern of previous speakers.

The role of a commencement speaker at graduation is one of great importance. Not only do they give a speech to the soon to be graduates, but they also reflect the time in which they are speaking. Though their words are ones of encouragement, they also mirror the sentiments of the current time and bridge a gap between Muhlenberg and the outside world. An early instance of this is seen in the commencement speaker for the class of 1930, the Honorable Senator James John Davis. Davis was the Secretary of Labor under presidents Harding and Coolidge. For those of you who slept through history class, the Great Depression, which many believed was caused by the ill-informed policy of Coolidge, had just begun less than a year prior to Davis' speech. Though no record of his content exists, it is clear that Seator Davis was chosen not only for his fame, but also for his direct connection to the current political climate.

Sharing a name but not the same background, another notable commencement speaker is that of James Farmer, civil rights activist and founder/director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Farmer spoke at Muhlenberg in 1968, a year of great change in America. The Vietnam War raged on while many on the homefront were fighting a war for their own civil rights. Farmer spoke at Muhlenberg on June 2, 1968. Just two months before, Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated in Memphis and the Fair Housing Act was passed. The March on Selma and Voting Rights Act had also only come to pass a few years prior. Those present at his speech said Farmer's "eloquent oratory figuratively, and seemingly literally, lifted the dampness of the afternoon."

1988 saw the return of another prominent civil rights activist as well. On May 22, 1988 Coretta Scott King gave the commencement address to a room full of anxious grads. Her presence at Commencement almost didn't happen, as leading up to graduation, the College had yet to secure a speaker. The College was apparently too caught up in getting someone of "celebrity" status to speak, and student's weren't happy about it. Then psychology professor Kathy Harring was on the board that picks the the speaker, and she lamented its difficulty, starting, "When the only incentive is an honorary degree, many people decline." King's speech, "dealing with the concerns of the 1960s" was well received by those in attendance.

Another speaker emblematic of her time was Geraldine Ferraro, first female vice presidential candidate. While looking for the speaker for the 142nd Commencement ceremony, the committee wasn′t as concerned with "celebrity" status as previously seen. Instead, they wanted the speaker to "be a significant activist and motivator" and "someone representative of current trends and issues." Ferraro, a keen supporter of feminism and political activism, fit that bill. Speaking in 1990, Ferraro was just at the cusp of third wave feminism. Those present clearly enjoyed her speech, with the yearbook writing that "her words to the Class of 1990 will be remembered for years to come."

Even last year, in 2017, we saw Judy Woodruff deliver the commencement address amongst a very divided country. When the recently elected president was seemingly at war with the media, Woodruff delivered a speech that gave a ray of hope in a seemingly desolate political landscape. Though it is unclear what Dr. Loeffler's speech will contain, it is interesting to note his background is also related to the current world climate. With a rise in anti-vaccination movements as well as an apparent distrust of medicine, a doctor makes an interesting choice for a commencement speaker.

Also, Loeffler is a long-time member of Doctors Without Borders. Not only did he provide relief after the Haitian earthquake, comparable to the current situation in Puerto Rico, but he also had similar personal interactions with the U.S. involvement in the Middle East. Though he luckily wasn't present at the time, an accidental bombing of Afghanistan saw the deaths of 10 patients and 12 doctors at a Doctors Without Borders trauma center in Kunduz.

Though we won't know for certain how Loeffler will address the class of 2018, it is clear that throughout its long history, Muhlenberg College and its commencement speakers have been closely linked to the political and cultural landscape of the time.

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For the most up-to-date listings, check out our website at muhlenberg.edu/wescoe.

"I raise up my voice — not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard ... we cannot succeed when half of us are held back."
-Malala Yousafzai

"Sing a song of her possibilities... Let her be born!"

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Photo Courtesy of Sade Ogunjimi

The ensemble of *For Colored Girls,* directed by Dr. Sharrell Luckett (left), reaches out towards the Lady in Brown (Gabi Hines '18).

Before I even walk into the room, I'm hooked. Spellbound. The driving beat of a drum rises through the wooden doors of the Rehearsal House, accompanied by a chorus of soaring voices that drowns out the steady pattering of raindrops on the roof. The voices intertwine and harmonize, creating and overturning beautiful chords that emanate life. When they suddenly stop, I take a chance and crack open the door, slipping into the room only to find that the source of the powerful music was not some immense choir, but a group of ten girls sitting on the floor in a circle.

This was my first glimpse of Ntozake Shange's *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*. Directed by theatre professor Dr. Sharrell Luckett, the show will mark the final mainstage of the 2017-2018 academic year when it hits the Baker Theatre stage from Apr. 26 to 28. The show has been highly anticipated on campus since it was announced, and for good reason — though I only witnessed a bit of the rehearsal process, the sheer range of talents required to put it on and the impeccable application of those talents was certainly a wonder to behold.

Prior to watching this rehearsal, I had believed that *for colored girls...* was simply a play consisting of monologues. Though monologues are indeed heavily used throughout the show, *for colored girls...* is much more than a play. As Asia DeShields '19, who portrays the Lady in Green, explains, Shange's piece ties together so many elements that the playwright had to invent a new word in order to fully describe it.

"*for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf* is a choreopoem," said DeShields. "In a series of poems, monologues, dances and songs, the piece expresses the experiences of seven different black women who are assigned colors rather than names. They are the Lady in Red, Lady in Orange, Lady in Yellow, Lady in Green, Lady in Blue, Lady in Purple and the Lady in Brown. The stories that these women get to tell are not always necessarily their own but speak to many shared experiences of black women. Major themes that are explored within this work are love, loss, sisterhood, diasporic identity, bliss, sorrow and artistry."

Originally performed on Broadway in 1976, the choreopoem consists of 20 individual works written by Shange. Each of the seven leads performs a few of the poems, sometimes taking on the entire piece alone and sometimes trading off with the other women. Consistently, though, the members of the company make themselves known, reacting to the stories that the women tell or dancing and singing together to the beat of the drum. As Destiny Snipe '18, the Lady in Yellow, giggles and grinds whilst recreating a tale of first love on graduation night, the ensemble crowds around her, watching with wide eyes and bright smiles. They squeal in delight as Snipe expertly raises the story's stakes, making eye contact with an audience that will soon be present and treating them, too, as exclusive recipients of this private tale, the kind that might be told in the early hours of the morning at a slumber party.

"This show can be eye opening in terms of broadening people's understandings or changing misunderstandings of what it means to be a black woman."

The choreopoem does not simply evoke this sense of inclusion on the level of audience-character interaction — in its mere existence, it is a force of inclusion on a much broader, more fundamental level. Cameron Silliman '18, who plays the Lady in Red, describes how the show's presence on the grounds of a primarily white institution adds to its significance.

"This show gives the opportunity for black actresses of Muhlenberg to truly show their strengths as performers," Silliman said. "It gives me and the rest of the cast the ability to tell our stories the way that we want them to; we have complete agency over how these experiences are shared. It has also given me the opportunity to perform an experience that I can directly relate to, something that I have never been given to chance to do on this campus."

By allowing black actresses and a largely black creative team to take ownership over the stories that concern them, a space is created for those who share the identities celebrated in the show to truly be themselves. Without the essentializing force of tokenization or poor research, equipped with a script that allows for black feminine subjectivity to live and thrive in all of its complexity, *for colored girls...* gives Muhlenberg's black actresses a rare opportunity to take on roles genuinely written for them, for black girls who are human and very, very real.

Beyond Snipe's initially lighthearted story, the choreopoem approaches such

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The boys are back in town: Introducing 'The Bad Ones'

By Ethan Forrer
Staff Writer

I went into The Bad Ones' debut performance with very little idea as to what the show would be about; now that it is over, I can say that, looking back, I probably knew more about what the show was before it even began.

The show itself was an hour-long constant stream of controlled chaos consisting of various methods. From sketches, improv, and sketch-improv to blind dates, business deals and jokes that only my roommate (who I know will not read this) could say without cringing.

Almost every segment of the show incorporated some audience interaction: at one point, an audience member was chosen to act out the lines fed to him during a scripted improv scene. This, coupled with The Bad Ones' ability to view themselves from the audience's perspective by not taking themselves too seriously, created a very active and energized environment not unlike the atmosphere associated with The Rocky Horror Picture Show.

"[The Bad Ones] have a freestyle sense of comedy derived from each member of the troupe simply enjoying their time on stage by being their own naturally funny and awkward selves."

The types of comedy implemented featured a wide range of styles and set-ups, the only connecting trend between them being the uniqueness of each bit, even being distinctly different from before. To attempt to succinctly describe what appears to be the over-all style or theme of The Bad Ones in one sentence: they have a freestyle sense of comedy derived from each member of the troupe simply enjoy-

SEE **THE BOYS** PAGE 7

JoJo performs at annual spring concert

By Arielle Moss
Staff Writer

"What I love about JoJo is the confidence that she exudes on stage and [that she] makes every girl out there want to embrace what makes her unique," said Jenny Sanchez '20 after attending the Muhlenberg College Spring Concert on Sunday Apr. 15.

Students all over the campus gathered together in Memorial Hall as soon as the doors opened at 7 p.m., an hour before JoJo's performance started. The event was spearheaded by Muhlenberg Activities Council (MAC), which sponsors an exclusive annual concert at the end of the semester each year. Students with a Muhlenberg ID were allowed to bring up to one guest for a fee of $15.00. JoJo was added to the list of famous musicians who have performed on campus in recent years, including Mike Posner and Jesse McCartney.

Memorial Hall was nearly unrecognizable in comparison to its usual appearance during basketball games. Half of the court was covered with a makeshift stage, and the room was dark but lit with a variety of brightly colored lights.

DJ Jabari, who opened for JoJo, played music of many genres as soon as students started wandering into Memorial Hall. Jabari got the early arrivers hyped up for JoJo by encouraging them to sing, playing selections that are well known by our generation. Everyone was dancing and singing along to the familiar tunes.

Even though JoJo was supposed to start singing at 8 p.m., DJ Jarbari played until 12 minutes past eight and JoJo entered the stage eight minutes later, wearing a black dress and high-heels, and sang with her band of three: a drummer, a guitarist and a pianist. What was supposed to be an hour-long set ended up lasting 37 minutes and ended three minutes before nine. Members of the audience were surprised that JoJo's concert was so short.

JoJo was added to the list of famous musicians who have performed on campus in recent years, including Mike Posner and Jesse McCartney.

JoJo opened with her song "Clover" and ended with her song "F*** Apologies." When it was first announced that JoJo was going to perform, I thought I had never heard of her. After going to her concert, and hearing her sing her two most famous songs, "Leave (Get Out)" and "Too Little Too Late," both released in 2006, I realized I did know JoJo and that I used to love those songs. "Leave (Get Out)" was the first song JoJo released in her first album "The High Road," when she was 12 years old.

"The concert was awesome! My favorite parts were when she sang 'Leave (Get Out)' and 'Too Little Too Late' because those are my favorite songs of hers," said Amber Zion '20. "I've known about JoJo ever since I watched the movie *Aquamarine* when I was in elementary school, and I love how good she sounded live. She sounded just like she does in recordings!"

JoJo engaged with the audience by directly talking to them and taking selfies with them. A lucky student was invited on stage to take a selfie with JoJo because the singer loved the letter she left for her in her dressing room.

"I thought it was great and lots of fun to attend. My favorite part was [reliving] my childhood with old songs and new ones from her new album and 'Tringle' [JoJo's word for an EP made up of three singles]," said Sanchez. "I actually have an older sister that listened to her growing up and that's how I found out about her ... so I guess you can say I'm a fan from way back when, then I followed her on Twitter and found out about her 'comeback' and her new music that way."

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

JoJo's charisma exceeded the audience's expectations on Sunday, Apr. 15.

Opera workshop: a journey of the voice

By Lauren D. Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

A sound like a bell: it is soft yet powerful. I am drawn in by a single light in the darkness. Several treasure chests are at the focus of my vision. They serve as my guide into the world of sound, the world of a bell — a voice. Voices of all timbres rise and fall with the accompaniment, plunging the audience into the world of opera, leaving us, the audience, as mere listeners. This is "she sings: a journey of the woman's voice in opera," performed and presented by the Muhlenberg College Opera Workshop.

Traditionally, the Opera Workshop "is a music ensemble class that all students who wanted to participate in were able to audition to be a part of," according to Sam Tropper '18.

"Every year the Music department chooses a new professor (or, this semester, professors) from the voice faculty to choose an opera to direct," said Tropper. "This year Lauren Madigan and Fiona Jackson directed the workshop and decided to put together a series of opera scenes that focused on showcasing the voices of women in opera - ergo the title of the production, 'She Sings.'"

The production was an amalgamation of various art mediums, presenting inspired costuming, intricate staging and of course powerful vocal talent from the Muhlenberg student body. With the combined efforts of several members of the Music department faculty, this year's Opera Workshop guided us through history, presenting key operatic works belonging to the woman's voice.

Ranging from the classical repertoire of W. A. Mozart to the beloved music of Leonard Bernstein, I was astonished by the vocal talent presented throughout the various operatic genres. One particular work, in which the Chamber Choir was featured as well, was Act II: Scene 1 of Charles Willibald Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*. The scene itself is one of a classic Greek tale, in which the greatest musician in the world, Orfeo (played by Julia Tyson '18), seeks to enter the underworld to save his recently deceased love Euridice (as heroes always do). However, as he approaches the crossing, the Furies, Greek goddesses of vengeance, block his path. Orfeo attempts to calm the raging deities with the one gift he has, his voice.

"[Sam Tropper '18] is a music ensemble class that all students who wanted to participate in were able to audition to be a part of."

Of course the hero eventually prevails, but the true mastery of this piece lies in the confrontation between a single, piercing voice and that of an unforgiving and breathtaking choir. With a grand *fortissimo*, demanding recognition, commanding our attention, the choir chants: "Chi mai dell' Erebo fralle caligini sull' orme d'Ercole e di piritoo conduceil pie?," which translates to: Who dares to walk through the dark mists of Erebus, in the footsteps of Hercules and Piritheus?" The choir sets the tone immediately. Orfeo has entered the underworld, and the audience goes right along with him. Gluck's piece continues with this call-response pattern, in which Orfeo pleads for safe passage only to be denied — at least until he finally convinces the Furies otherwise through his powers of song and lyric.

As Tyson attempts to approach the crossing, her voice remains strong yet graceful, as if rather than combatting the furious choir with rigorous passion, she instead glides over it, voice rising above all of us in yearning. And as the scene continues, the choir eventually gives in to Tyson's will. The furies are calmed, Orfeo passes, the choir fades, and I am left breathless.

"To be part of Opera Workshop is to be part of any other cast," Pietrina Poritzky '21, a Fury within the choir, stated. "But it's also hard work, we had long rehearsals and each of us had to learn music in a variety of different languages ... We do it because we love it so much, and the end result is something to be proud of which proves how much fun Opera can be!"

I asked Poritzky to further describe a favorite piece within the workshop. She chose *Cendrillon* by Jules Massenet.

"The scene we performed was the one where Cendrillon (Caroline Rafizadeh '18) is encountered by her Fairy Godmother (Carly Dove '18) and a huge swarm of fairies," Poritzky said. "Though this scene is fun and light hearted, it had a lot going on at on at once; ribbon dancing, quick changes, couches turning into coaches, light up dresses; also, we were singing in French the whole time. It was awesome being one of many overly excited fairies completely transforming the stage into a magical wonderland."

A second piece of particular interest to me was Samuel Barber's *A Hand of Bridge*, a one-act. The scene was made up of five characters: Sally (Maggie Capone '20), Bill (Owen Yingling '21), Geraldine (Tropper) and David (Ryan Estes '21). From the outside, the piece was a standard game of bridge among friends; as the music continued to drone, however, dark secrets and desires are revealed within each player. This was represented through the usage of masks — while the characters played the card game, the masks covered their faces. When speaking their inner thoughts, however, the masks were removed to reveal the characters' true selves. Said thoughts and desires were further represented by the passing of a red scarf, contrasting drastically with the black and white costuming. It is the one color we as an audience see and recognize as unsaid desire.

"I was honored to be cast as Geraldine in Samuel Barber's *A Hand of Bridge*," Tropper described, as the "aria in this opera was written in an atonal style, which basically means that the piano was usually playing every note [except for] the ones I had to sing. It was also a piece that was rhythmically complex, and for a long time felt impossible to learn. In the end, this role was extremely rewarding to sing — and I am a better musician now because of it."

The Opera Workshop was truly an inspiring, unbelievable masterpiece that I am proud to have attended. It was a voyage through time, a glance into operatic history, a "journey of the woman's voice" and an exploration of the talent that is our music department.

Highlighting the women of the Red Doors

By Emma Forgione
Contributing Writer

This weekend I was happy to attend something that I think our school can never get enough of: student-created work. The Red Door Play Festival is put on every semester by students of all class years, where these young artists can exercise their skills in directing, acting, stage managing and, in recent years, workshopping original work.

This year's festival was coordinated by Katherine McGuire '20, who has spearheaded the festival for the last two semesters. And I wanted to acknowledge the pride I felt to see a wave of majority-female directors in this particular season.

Not only were many female directors highlighted, but many of the plays also focused on female stories. Particularly worth mentioning was *She's Fabulous,* directed by Karla Sagastizado '21 and featuring Amisha Datta '21 and Lindsay Paige Spitzer '21. The piece centered on two women watching an actress, who had gotten the job over them, perform. The play begins as a discussion as to how they are going to congratulate the actress that ended up in the role but morphs into an argument as to who really deserved the part. The director's perspective showcased the forces at work against the women in this piece, displaying how the male-dominated business forces women into competition with one another for the limited number of roles available to them. So instead of trying to address the issue that there should be a more equal playing field, women are distracted into tearing each other down personally and professionally.

What I really appreciated was the optimistic ending, in which the women end up coming to consciousness about this argument and choosing to applaud and encourage their companion. The two actresses did a wonderful and compelling job at illustrating the nuances of this conversation.

I was also struck by the work of Jennifer Coté '19, who will be directing on the Mainstage next semester. At the festival, she directed *Terminating, or Lass Meine Schmerzen Nicht Verloren Sein or Ambivalence.* This very daunting and intricate Tony Kushner play was a lot to tackle in the Red Door, but Coté did so many interesting things to make it work in the space and to draw the audience's eye in great ways. The story illustrates a queer man speaking with his queer therapist, and navigating issues of depression and self-identity.

The hard part about this play is that Kushner's language is extremely dense and chaotic and sometimes flies at us so fast that it is hard to truly absorb what the characters are saying — but Coté made the interesting choice of having a screen behind her actors, and various important definitions of psychological terms projected on the screen when they became relevant to the action on stage. The choice was rather defamiliarizing and made the audience truly feel the separation between hot human emotionality and cold textbook definitions, two elements constantly at odds in the psychological world. The screen also acted as the power in the space, almost a divine, all-knowing figure that the characters on stage were at the mercy of. It was really a very compelling piece of work.

In the past couple years that I have been at school, someone's play that is chosen for the Mainstage season is usually featured in the Red Door Play Festival, and this semester it was *The Repair Man* by Sarah Jae Leiber '19. Leiber's play marries ideas of Jewish cultural expression and mental health.

"I got the idea [for the play] in a few places; I was thinking about how weird it is to be 'hangry,' like, people get hungry and then they get really mad and blunt and honest. I was thinking about that as it relates to depression," said Leiber. "When I get depressed, I don′t eat. Sadness just compounds when you deprive your body of that basic decency - you become a raw nerve, blunt and honest. Hangry. And what a better way of explaining this than through the Jewish fast of Yom Kippur?"

I also really enjoyed Leiber's inspiration from the golem, a monster from Jewish folklore who′s there to protect the Jewish people. The figure of the golem shows up in Florry Arnold's loveable portrayal of The Repair Man, who comes to do some spiritual guiding of the young protagonist.

"I also love the idea of the golem and I hate that he′s become kind of synonymous with a big, hulking, rude, idiot. I kept seeing people calling the president a golem, which I HATE, and not just because the president is an anti-Semite. The golem is a protector figure. He's kind. He's helpful. He's indiscriminate. He deserves better than being compared to that guy. #NotMyGolem."

Leiber expresses how she struggled with the line between sentimentality and blunt honesty or, in other words, comedy that is in equal parts funny and true. Anna Ricciuti '19 will be directing this as a Mainstage, and Leiber is confident in her abilities to flesh out both of these ideas in an effective manner.

The Red Door Play Festival was truly a spectacle to see. Featuring a combination of striking visuals, critical dialogue, complicated characters and political commentary, Red Doors bring the world to our smallest stage, reminding us that stories don't have to be larger than life to be important.

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multifaceted issues as sexual assault, bringing the oft unseen black female experience starkly into the light. This idea is shared by DeShields, whose initial response to the work was charged with emotion.

"This show is so special to me. The first time I read the play, I was personally going through a hard time, and the script brought me to tears, especially the line at the end: 'I found God in myself, and I loved her fiercely,'" said DeShields. "This show is for survivors. [It shows] the struggle and pain that black women collectively have had to overcome in a society that was never made for us to succeed in, and we are still here thriving and creating, and finding more love in ourselves each and every day. black women deserve all the love and happiness the universe has to offer, and I am honored to have the opportunity to give a voice to these narratives. And getting to make art with all black women has been such a privilege! I have so much love and admiration for my cast."

Still, as Silliman asserts, the show certainly does not contain messages that only apply to black women.

"This is an opportunity for audience members to listen, celebrate and cry with us," Silliman said. "While we are specifically talking about black women and our stories, these experiences are also universal and relatable in certain ways. This show can be eye opening in terms of broadening people′s understandings or changing misunderstandings of what it means to be a black woman."

In the Rehearsal House, the cast members begin a fresh run-through. The seven leads walk up to microphone stands, breathing deeply and experimentally moving as though the metal rods were their partners in a musicless dance. Gabi Hines '18 eventually steps forward, commanding the stage with breathtaking presence, and begins the first monologue. "She's half notes scattered without rhythm," Hines says. "Sing a song of her possibilities ... Let her be born!"

The entire ensemble erupts in a song and dance of unapologetic volume and joy, running faster and slower in time with the speed of the drum. Snipe talks of sex, Krystal Hall '21 touts the virtues of Spanish dances, Silliman falls to the ground in tears after breaking up with her partner, the veins in her neck pronounced in passion, only to be lifted up by the black women around her, Green and Yellow and Blue and so many more.

As it turns out, only the rainbow is enuf.

from **The Boys** page 5

ing their time on stage by being their own naturally funny and awkward selves. This creates an almost surreal experience, as the audience is pulled through the hilarious limbo between what is funny and what isn't.

The Bad Ones are currently made up of a group of six like-minded friends: Will Wamser '20, Juli Mindlin '20, Jarrett Azar '20, Nikki Miller '20 and Karly McCloskey '20; Ben Goldberg '20 was also featured as a guest comedian.

Wamser retells the story of how their small band of comedians first came together, after a few of them saw the SNL comedian when he came to Muhlenberg: "Alex Moffat's sense of humor and the way he did it was a lot of crowd work and things like that. He wouldn't really be able to get into any of the comedy groups on campus by doing that just because of the way they're structured ... It was like a lot of really weird humor that was like really fluid and that wasn't like any of the stuff we have on campus."

A large part of The Bad Ones' identity is their goal to be unlike anything Muhlenberg has ever seen — to provide a place for Alex Moffat-like students who don't want to prescribe to only doing improv or stand-up. Wamser estimates that "we have thousands of improv groups [on campus]."

"Millions," Mindlin corrects, who also said that because there is only one other stand-up group, there just are not alternatives out there.

"A large part of The Bad Ones' core pillars is to be unlike anything Muhlenberg has ever seen."

"A lot of what we're looking for — especially in like more people who might want to join — is just stuff that isn't really represented in other groups," says Wamser.

The group's primary comedic subject area resides in making jokes that are challenging to discern if they are actually a joke; essentially, if the end result is the same, why does it matter if you're laughing at an actual joke or not?

"I think it's so funny when you can't tell if a joke is a joke," Wamser says. "Are they actually bad or are they doing this intentionally?"

Azar points to some of the video effects like clips and a PowerPoint that were implemented during the show: "We put the music in there, and we used bad text effects and things like that to give it that low budget, low quality vibe." The goal, as Azar says, is to make the audience think, "Wait, it's obvious they put a lot of effort into this. It still came out funny, but also bad."

This is actually part of the reasoning behind their name, as Wamser describes: "We think bad stuff is really funny — hence 'The Bad Ones."

Founded for the pursuit of free comedy, The Bad Ones are always interested in accepting new members into the group who want to break the comedy mold. One of the great strengths of their group will be its ability to change and incorporate new ideas as time goes by, which comes from the group's relative independence as a performance group.

"We're not even a part of either the MTA or MCA," says McCloskey. "We're an independent student organization because we didn't want to fall under — I don't know their rules but I'm sure there are rules."

At the end of the day, The Bad Ones want to do what they find to be funny and perform for a like-minded audience who will appreciate their natural humor. Azar describes this sentiment best: "I think a lot of what we're doing is subjective, and a lot of what we're doing is going to depend on the person, but we're going to do it whether or not other people are going to find it funny."

The Bad Ones are attempting to bring about a new kind of performance group in Muhlenberg that goes against the grain of popular comedy, and, let me just say, when it comes to comedy, they're killing it.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

The new objectivity

"Transparency is the new objectivity;" David Weinberger's words have sent journalists into a flutter nowadays. And the Sean Hannity controversy is the perfect example.

On Monday night, Sean Hannity was named as the mystery third client of Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's long-term personal attorney. Hannity, a conservative commentator and Fox News host, addressed many stories on Trump's lawyers but denied the relationship between himself and Cohen.

Whether you consider Hannity a journalist or a talk show host, his connections created a conflict of interest, or a situation in which his personal interests and biases could prevent him from reporting objectively.

The Society of Professional Journalists' code of ethics states clearly to "Avoid conflicts of interest, real or perceived. Disclose unavoidable conflicts." In other words, in situations where biased reporting cannot be avoided, the author should acknowledge this limitation, so that the reader can better understand what may have influenced the final product.

> **In short, we can't avoid conflicts of interest — but, we can absolutely minimize them.**

The problem, then, is not that Hannity had the connection, but rather that he did not disclose it — he wasn't transparent.

Being transparent allows the audience to judge for themselves the reliability of your reporting, and the same goes with disclosing and citing sources. This allows the readers to opportunity to check journalists and make sure the sources were accurately summarized.

Relationships are an essential part of the job; it is necessary for a journalist to have resources, and inside scoops. But the problem arises when an inside source passes as an objective outsider, like when a student reviews their own club, or when a television host interviews their own lawyer.

In a college setting, preventing conflicts of interest is nearly impossible. We are all members of the campus community. Student journalists attend and contribute in many ways to the organization that they sometimes report on. One could that, because of this, student journalists would be hard pressed to objectively cover anything on their campuses.

In short, we can't avoid conflicts of interest — but, we can absolutely minimize them.

And in all honesty, sometimes allowing a reporter to write about something they're passionate about strengthens the reporting because they understand the nuances of the topic. Having an environmental science major write a piece on Earth Day could create a more insightful and nuanced piece than the average reporter — so long as the conflict is acknowledged.

It's impossible to remain completely objective if only nine of the 10 facts in a given story can fit in the space. How do you decide which of the facts is least important? That matter is subjective.

Hannity's mistake was hiding a connection which could have swayed his viewers' understanding of his reporting. Faking anything, even objectivity, only creates trouble in the long run — we believe that acknowledging our own limits creates trust in our readers.

On passion and self-destruction

By Alyssa Curtis
Contributing Writer

Passions, although extreme in the feelings they evoke, are often-times transitory. I have been racing since middle school and running for even longer. From the moment I began, I felt consumed and obsessed with it in that beautiful and cheesy way that is reminiscent of a first love. I still feel this way. My heart switches sporadically between fluttering and sinking in the hours before workouts and in the days before races. However, I have accepted that these feelings may not last forever. I have made an internal resolution: when I begin to lose my love for running, I will stop. If it begins to hinder the growth of my identity rather than enhance it, I will stop.

However, runners have begun to embrace self-destruction as an inherent part of the running community. I'll momentarily push aside our sometimes excessive ibuprofen use and our tendencies to run through injuries saying boldly, fearlessly and stupidly, "I'm fine!" Instead, let's talk about food. I understand that my focus on running is limiting but I would like to view it as a lens through which I can challenge a larger problem. This is not just about, or for, runners specifically. It's about a cultural problem. A famous Bukowski quote reads, "Find what you love and let it kill you." Here's the thing: I don't want to do that.

We begin to form causal relationships between the food we consume, the way our bodies look and our performances (as athletes and people in general). Passions, like running, may be temporary, but our relationships with our bodies and food last the duration of our lives. If I begin to loathe running, I can stop. But I am tied to my body and my relationship with food. To use something I love as a means to control these relationships seems at best silly, and at worst, reckless and dangerous. We have begun to stop viewing food as fuel, but rather as a manipulation device. We need control over our lives and we often turn to food to find it. We've let our passions kill us in the worst way possible. It isn't poetic and it isn't beautiful.

Instead of nourishing our passions and allowing them to help us grow, we've let them destroy us. To want to become the best version of yourself is not foolish or silly, it's admirable and inspiring. However, to become so absorbed in, and obsessed with, a singular aspect of yourself — to attempt to make that one aspect of yourself the best it can be by sacrificing the rest — definitely is.

> **We've let our passions kill us in the worst way possible. It isn't poetic and it isn't beautiful.**

Everyone has different ways of healing and I'm sure I won't be able to heal anyone with this article. Nevertheless, we can and should open a dialogue. It is a problem that we shouldn't just brush aside because of societal acceptance or apathy. Thinness has been equated to speed and beauty and success. But that's simply not the case. If anything is the reason for speed and beauty and success, I would argue that it's happiness and contentment in your pursuits.

One of the most exhilarating aspects of racing is the complete dissolution of the world around you. People cheer; sometimes you hear them and sometimes you don't. You're so absorbed in the race: the pain, each aching and powerful step, the jersey in front of you and the steps following close behind. It's utterly your own experience; it's freeing. You aren't concentrating on the people watching you or how your leg muscles are jiggling or the sweat drenching your body. The unflattering aspects of yourself don't matter because you aren't running to look good or to please other people. It's just you; you're running for yourself. You're not letting what you love kill you, you're letting it intoxicate you — you're allowing it to help you love yourself.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

The morality of supporting Syrian refugees

An open letter to the Trump Administration

By Riley Minkoff
Contributing Writer

Dear President Trump,

If we cannot find the human decency to allow Syrian refugees and victims of the brutal and bloody war occurring there to take refuge in our country, then I do not know who we are as Americans. I know you may preach xenophobic policies and make assumptions about who people are or what they believe in simply because of where they are from, but do you see what is happening? We cannot tolerate that kind of thinking anymore.

President Assad is using chemical warfare to torture and kill his own people. We claim to be the world's super power, but how can we truly be super if we don't use our powers for good?

If we are a leading world force, then we should use our position to be the world's leader in respect, dignity, tolerance and acceptance. If you want to put America first then you cannot ignore what is going on in the rest of the world.

We cannot pretend like we are a nation isolated from everything. When genocides occur, when torture takes place, when people need our help and a safe place to land, America should be their friend, not their foe. Not somewhere where they somehow feel as if they are in even more danger.

Children are dying. People don't have medical assistance. Houses are being burnt to the ground. And yet, you sit there and appoint a man, Paul Nakasone, who wants to start more wars and create more of these international human rights disasters as head of the NSA?

President Trump, with every bone in my body and with every fiber of my being, I ask that you look into your heart and help those who need it. That you behave diplomatically to countries and respect their people. That you don't assume the children and their families who are suffering might be terrorists because they are from the Middle East. That you let our nation of immigrants welcome all immigrants. And that domestically, you let people live their lives in the way they so choose.

If you truly want America to be great again, then you would let the people who comprise it make it great, and you would show the rest of the world that our commitment to human rights is what makes it great internationally. I urge you, think with your heart for just a moment.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Citizen

Approaching innovation

By Brooke Greenberg
Staff Writer

I am a Psychology major. I enjoy learning about people and behaviors and the connection between the mind and the body. It is my passion. Never in a million years, did I think I would be creating a business. But, I did along with my business partner and roommate, Lilly Shuman, and here is our story.

On a whim, and along with Lilly for moral support, I attended the first meeting of the new club B.Y.O.B, Be Your Own Boss, started by freshman Emily Sinensky and advised by Professor Rita Chesterton. The first meeting, I was skeptical as to how the club would make me an entrepreneur, but after I heard about the Innovation Challenge that Muhlenberg was hosting, Lilly and I decided to go for it. The Innovation Challenge is a Shark Tank-like business competition where new business ideas are pitched in front of a panel of judges, most who were Muhlenberg alumni.

A part of the Innovation Challenge was to create a business plan, model, meet with a professional mentor and in our case, create a prototype. After many hours of tinkering around with ideas and potential businesses Lilly and I could create, it came to us. After subscribing to the beauty box, Birchbox in the beginning of the year, we found ourselves throwing out and not using majority of the products in the box, thus leading to lots of wasted money. When we did research to find subscription boxes that fit our interests and couldn't find one, we decided to create our own.

Our company, College Crate is a fully customizable subscription box geared directly towards college students. As college students, we don't have tons of money to waste on products we are not interested in.

We decided to make the box customizable based on the category of products customers would pick based on what they are interested in. For example, customers would get a choice of ten item categories of options they would like in their box (healthy snacks, tech accessories, socks, accessories, drink mixes, etc.), and then the customers would get to check off four categories they would be interested in. In their box, they would be guaranteed to receive the categories of products they chose but they would not know the specific items, leading to an anticipated surprise for the customers.

In the process of preparing for the competition, Lilly and I put countless of hours into preparing our product and thinking it through every angle. We were also assigned a mentor, Ron Czajkowski, who has been a mentor for the Innovation Challenge before as well as a Muhlenberg Alumni.

Through scheduled meetings in GQ, Ron would go through our business model in the finest detail, showing how we can improve our company, and make it actually something tangible and attainable. Ron was also instrumental in making sure we hit our company goals as well as refining our presentation.

After hours and hours of preparation, shopping for items for prototypes, rehearsing our presentation and making our claims of why our product will succeed in the real world, it was show time. Look to page one to see how it all turned out.

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Shaving heads and saving lives

Baseball's annual Vs. Cancer game raises over $4,000, signs Team Impact player

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

The baseball team's newest team member, Bobby, officially signs his Team Impact National Letter of Intent committing to Muhlenberg.

After weeks of temperamental weather — rain and snow tailored the athletic schedule and left the game day fate of teams up in the air — Muhlenberg baseball had what many would call a perfect day for baseball. This past Saturday, in balmy 80 plus degree weather managed only by the consistent breeze which hung in the air, the team packed hats, bats and mitts and made the drive to their home field at Cedar Creek Park. Amongst the tools of their trade was an electric razor, because despite a typical game against a conference opponent at an all too familiar diamond, this day was a special day for the Mules.

Saturday, Apr. 14 marked the Mules' annual 'Vs. Cancer' game, a day dedicated to celebrating the team's fundraising accomplishments for the Vs. Cancer organization. According to its website, Vs. Cancer is a non-profit organization striving to save kids' lives by empowering athletes and communities to fund lifesaving childhood cancer efforts.

Muhlenberg baseball is just one of many collegiate teams that have worked with Vs. Cancer. Chase Jones, a former college baseball player who was diagnosed with brain cancer while playing at UNC Chapel Hill, leveraged his personal network to start and grow his foundation.

"Many of his contacts were in collegiate baseball," said Rachel Mark, Vs. Cancer's Associate Campaign Director. "We have found great success when working with these teams because coaches and universities are often looking for a charitable cause their athletes can support during the year. The schools love to see their students using their platform as athletes for good and we offer them an opportunity to change kids' lives by fundraising for pediatric cancer research and their local children's hospital."

For Muhlenberg, most players set personal goals and fundraise through social media, according to Justin Revel '19, who became the student liaison after volunteering to take on the funding aspect. This year the team raised about $4,500 for both local facilities and the national organization.

This season, the Mules baseball team finished their Vs. Cancer campaign as the 16th most lucrative fundraiser across the NCAA (including Division I,II, and III teams) and raised the most money out of any Centennial Conference team.

"These kids know that an entire team of collegiate athletes are rallying around them ... That can have a major impact on a child's life"

The culmination of all their efforts? Shaving their heads.

Each year that Muhlenberg baseball has paired with Vs. Cancer, players volunteer to shave their head in both celebration for their donation and as a sign of support for those that lose their hair because of cancer treatments. This year Jake Picker '19 and Arya Bharatiya '20, along with head coach Tod Gross, were the members of the team that said goodbye to their locks.

For Picker, it's about more than just hair.

"The whole point of the head shaving is to make a sacrifice in support of a greater cause, and I think I understand and recognize that and that's why I choose to do it every year," said Picker, who shaved his head for the fourth straight season. "I know my hair will grow back. Unfortunately not all those kids are that fortunate, so I do it in support of those children battling."

In the past, Muhlenberg's Vs. Cancer game was a visual representation of months of effort for a charitable cause. But Saturday's game was different than all the other Vs. Cancer games of the past.

Immediately following the double header against McDaniel College, Muhlenberg officially signed Bobby DiGiacomo, a nine-year-old baseball player who, after a three-and-a-half year battle with high risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia, has been off chemotherapy since this past June. Decked out in a Muhlenberg baseball cap and jersey, and surrounded by the six players that serve as Team Impact ambassadors, Bobby made that day all the more special for his new team.

"The game definitely means much more with Bobby on the team this year," said Revel. "It gives our team an opportunity to understand why we do this fundraiser and how important it truly is. But overall, Bobby has inspired our team in so many ways this season, not just for this particular game."

It's all about the kids, and Mark was excited that Muhlenberg's dedication to the cause went beyond just fundraising for Vs. Cancer.

"Team Impact is a wonderful organization and we are thrilled the Muhlenberg baseball team has become involved," said Mark. "First, it is an escape from focusing on their disease. They can hang out with the team and enjoy themselves, rather than think about treatments, surgeries or anything else cancer related. Second, it offers the child an extended network of support. These kids know that an entire team of collegiate athletes are rallying around them and supporting them through the disease. That can have a major impact on a child's life."

FROM **LACROSSE** PAGE 12

credible impact the senior class has made to the program. "My first thoughts went out to the seniors: Joey Hess, Niko Del Moro, Dylan Moyer, Lance Gibson, Brian Lafond, and Uncle Will Edwards (student coach). These young men have put blood, sweat and tears into Muhlenberg Lacrosse for the past four years," Plunket said. "They have seen a lot of friends come and go over the last couple seasons and they have stuck together through some tough times. Through it all, they have managed to remain positive, stay together and battle through adversity for the sake of the program. I am extremely grateful for these young men and proud of the work they have put in to elevate our program in 2018."

Coming off an emotional and hard fought win on Wednesday, the Mules took the field at Scotty Wood Stadium on a beautiful Saturday afternoon to face another Conference foe, McDaniel. The Mules jumped out to a 5-1 lead in the first quarter and never looked back winning the game 16-7. Grossman led the way on offense scoring his thirty-first goal of the season and added three assists. Frankie Feaster '20 was dominant in the faceoff X winning 17 out of 24 faceoffs and goalie Garret Pope '20 nearly matched a personal career high with 17 saves.

After winning the Swarthmore game, the Mules had a lot of momentum going into the game against McDaniel, believing that they would win another conference game and using their depth to their advantage in the win. "We have a lot of talent and depth this season and have teammates that believe that they can win a big game. I think our players believe that they are a good team and we have had multiple players step up in big moments to help win games," Plunket remarked.

Going forward the Mules have four remaining games, the next three being on the road. Their first road game is against Washington on Apr. 17, whom the Mules are currently tied for fourth with in the Centennial Conference standings. Then they travel to number twelve Dickinson on Saturday and close out their road trip at Ursinus.

Plunket says that the Mules are remaining confident as they gear up the final stretch of the season. "We plan to stay focused, watch film and prepare for our upcoming opponents. The game plan remains the same each week and we realize the challenges that we have ahead — a couple of nationally ranked opponents and a few national contenders remain the focus and an exciting opportunity for us."

With their deep and talented roster, the Mules are looking to continue their Centennial Conference win streak and make a push to the Conference playoffs.

No coach? No problem

Men's Tennis team finds success without coach

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

Sometimes, a team's record in the standings doesn't always tell the whole story of a season.

Despite a 3-12 record during its 2018 season, the Muhlenberg men's tennis team has performed very well recently, even with the absence of its head coach. After starting the spring season losing 12 of its first 13 scoring matchups, the team has rebounded strongly by winning consecutive contests for the first time all year.

These victories have been under the leadership of Angela Jones, interim head coach. A 9-0 victory over Moravian was followed just a few days later by yet another 9-0 shutout win over Gettysburg. In a time of such adversity, it is remarkable that the team has rallied in the past few weeks to perform so well.

Within conference play, the team currently places eighth of 10 teams in the Centennial Conference, but there is hope for the remainder of the season. Adding context, the Mules do play in one of the more competitive conferences in the nation. There are two teams nationally ranked in the NCAA top 25 by the International Tennis Association, and four teams ranked in the top 20 teams of the Atlantic South region (the region that Muhlenberg is a part of).

Steven Shoemaker '19 has been a three-year member of the varsity tennis team and is optimistic about the team's outlook for the rest of the spring.

"The men's tennis team has performed very well recently. Just because our record over the last 10 matches (2-8) does not portray that, we have still been working very hard both on and off the court. We have been faced with a lot of adversity this year, recently losing our head coach and having our captain Mickey Schindler trying his best to lead the way," said Shoemaker. "Despite our struggles, we have managed to stay focused and swept our two most recent matches against Moravian and Gettysburg. The team is excited to finish the year strong and to send Mickey off on a high note."

In its latest matchup, the dominant win over Gettysburg, Schindler was honored for his time on the team at Muhlenberg. After the pregame festivities, the senior from Brooklyn, NY had a very impressive performance. On the day, he won both his singles and doubles match, which pushed his total number career of victories on the Mule tennis team to 61. As the only senior on this year's team, Schindler's excellent performance on the courts has been a prime reason behind the recent Muhlenberg resurgence.

The men's tennis team continues its season and looks to move to a three game win streak when it faces Wilkes College on Saturday in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Mickey Schindler '18 headlines the Mules' sweep of Gettysburg on Senior Day. As the lone senior, Schindler is the team's main source of leadership.
Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

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from **Soccer** page 12

came [to Muhlenberg] very outgoing and sometimes a little too silly at moments that were meant to be serious."

The nickname is one of those silly moments, yet a funny story the two look back on and laugh about. "Big L came out accidentally during practice my senior year and then it stuck. She now refers to me as Big M, and we are the 'Big' duo as coaches currently," said Chiodo. "My relationship with Coach Benintend has grown so much over the past four years. She has seen me mature on and off the field which has allowed us to grow fond of each other," she added.

Chiodo expressed her appreciation for Benintend allowing her to be as involved as she has become as an assistant coach, even if it is only for the 14 practices the team has in the spring semester. "She allows me to really share my opinions based on how we used to play previous years, to now as an outsider looking at the team from a different perspective."

The "Big Duo" now communicate daily regarding practice plans, ideas for drills and ways to bring a competitive nature to the team's spring practices. Chiodo does have a few favorite parts of practice, sort of. "I also do a lot of ball chasing which is *so* fun," she explained sarcastically. However, she was quick to admit "I also get thrown into drills occasionally if we are low on numbers, which brings back the good ol' days when I played with my teammates."

The connection Chiodo has with her former teammates and current players is the real reason that she wanted to stay so connected with the program only weeks away from graduating. "I think playing soccer in college, especially at Muhlenberg, was unlike any other soccer experience I have had before. I have made so many life-long friends from this team."

Thinking about Chiodo's future, she doesn't necessarily see herself as a career coach, a move some Muhlenberg alumni have decided to participate in with their alma mater. Rather, she can see herself in the same role that her father had coaching staffs of teams she played on growing up. "He was the assistant assistant coach. He stepped in when we needed guidance, but it didn't require as much responsibility as the head coach's role was. He was the more relaxed coach that gave you nothing but compliments and was head of chasing balls."

Although Chiodo will be packing up in the middle of May and walking across the stage on the front lawn of Muhlenberg, eager and ready to take on her future career endeavors, she will always remember her time as a Muhlenberg women's soccer player.

"Muhlenberg soccer has changed the way I view myself, to which I am eternally grateful. I have seen myself change from this crazy, sometimes annoying class clown, to the more mature, still kind of crazy clown with a different perspective on life," said Chiodo. "Choosing to play DIII soccer at Muhlenberg has been one of the best decisions I have made because it taught me so much more than just how to become a better soccer player."

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Lacrosse storms upfield

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

Garrett Pope '20 after making a save. The Mules are 10-0 in games Pope has started and the Mules goalie has a stellar save percentage of 65 percent.

BY JOSH LEDERMAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Muhlenberg men's lacrosse team won its first Centennial Conference game in four years with a thrilling 10-9 home win against Swarthmore.

Muhlenberg, picked to finish last in the Centennial Conference by the Centennial Conference coaches poll quickly exceeded expectations during their non-conference slate. After winning their fifth game of the season, which set a program record for best start to a season, the Mules began to receive votes in the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association poll for the first time in ten years.

Their win streak extended to eight games after they won their final non-conference game against FDU-Florham and they tied the 2008 team for the program's longest winning streak during a season.

The Mules were looking to extend their winning streak to nine game as they opened up Centennial Conference play against Haverford. Despite making an excellent comeback effort in the final minutes of the game, the Mules winning streak came to an end with an 11-9 loss. The following game came against conference power Gettysburg, who was ranked number four at the time.

The Mules were competitive throughout the game against the Bullets, but Gettysburg ultimately pulled away in the fourth quarter 18-11.

Last Wednesday, the Mules returned back to Scotty Wood Stadium to face Swarthmore under the lights in hopes of winning their first Centennial Conference game since 2014. The Mules came out of the gates dominating the first quarter, scoring the first five goals of the game and not allowing the Garnet to score.

In the Second quarter, the Garnet stormed back scoring four consecutive goals and cutting the Mules lead to just one. However, Scott Fayan '20 scored two goals to give the Mules a little more breathing room going into halftime.

No lead was safe in the second half for the Mules as each time the Mules started to pull away, Swarthmore responded quickly with goals of their own.

Late in the fourth quarter it was Niko Del Moro '18 scoring a goal after receiving a pass from Ethan Grossman '21 that helped pad a 10-8 Mules lead with just over three minutes to play. The Garnet scored one final goal, but it was too little too late and the Mules secured a 10-9 victory, their first Centennial Conference win since 2014. In the locker room Head Coach Jake Plunket reflected on the in-

SEE **LACROSSE** PAGE 10

Athletic Director search narrowed to four candidates

BY MAX SHAPIRO
STAFF WRITER

With longtime Athletic Director Corey Goff slated to leave Muhlenberg at the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the search for his replacement is in full swing.

In March, Goff accepted the position of director of athletics and physical education at Ransom Everglades School, an independent college preparatory school in Miami, Fla. Goff came to Muhlenberg in 2000 as an assistant football coach, served as head baseball coach from 2006-2012, and was named athletic director in 2012. He also served as acting football coach this past fall, and led the Mules to an ECAC Bowl win.

"I will forever be grateful to Muhlenberg and the tremendous collection of people who have helped make my 18-year tenure at the college such a positive and rewarding experience for my family and me," said Goff on his departure.

The hunt for Goff's replacement has been led by a joint effort between the College's administrators, along with the leaders within the athletic department.

Student athletes have been invited to attend scheduled Q&A sessions with each of the final four candidates. This will give students a chance to get to know the potential hires better, along with sharing their own views on the current and relevant issues pertaining to the athletic department.

With the decision likely to come by the end of the month, it is an exciting time as Muhlenberg Athletics prepares to head in a new direction.

Back for more

BY MATT RIEBESELL
SPORTS EDITOR

With the curtain on Molly Chiodo's time at Muhlenberg rapidly coming to a close she saw an opportunity open up and decided to jump on it. When former assistant soccer coach Anna-Kate Depaolo took a job at Washington and Lee, the Muhlenberg women's soccer staff was already short-staffed. Not the biggest issue for a team who is not in season, but a void nonetheless.

Chiodo thought, why not.

"I knew that there would be some sort of break in the system. I decided I wasn't done with the team just yet and took the challenge to fill Depaolo's shoes. So I sent in my resume to Big L, mostly as a joke, and interviewed for the job."

Filling in Depaolo's shoes – or cleats – is a tough task according to Chiodo, but a task she thought her skillset played into quite nicely. "Tattie was easygoing and very approachable as a coach and closer to us in age, which allowed us to connect to her authority with comfort," she said. For that reason, Chiodo joked, "I was a shoe in."

"Big L" is the only way Chiodo refers to the Mules Head Women's Soccer Coach Leslie Benintend.

"If I'm speaking my truth, Coach Benintend and I had very mixed feelings about each other when I first came to Muhlenberg," explained Chiodo . "I

SEE **SOCCER** PAGE 11

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

Molly Chiodo '18 takes the ball up the field on Memorial Field during her senior campaign as a Mule.

Coming up this week in SPORTS
Weekend Edition

Track and Field	Baseball	Women's Golf	Softball
LARRY ELLIS INVITATIONAL	*MUHLENBERG* vs *WASHINGTON COLLEGE*	*CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS*	*MUHLENBERG* vs *SWATHMORE*
Friday, Apr. 20 Princeton, NJ	Saturday, Apr. 21 @ 12:30 pm Cedar Creek Park	Satudray, Apr. 21 Conestoga Country Club	Saturday, Apr. 21 @ 1:00pm Swathmore, PA.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

Lax leader

Jordy Bonvini ‘18 becomes first Women’s Lacrosse player named to an All-American team.

read more on 11

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NEWS

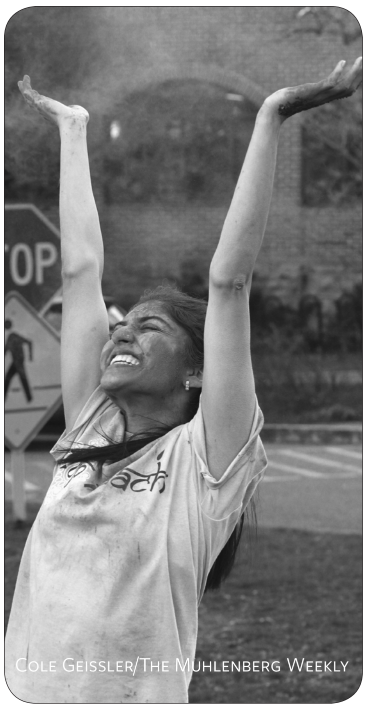
The students of EnAcT continue to fight for Muhlenberg to become environmentally friendly, despite lack of support from the Board of Trustees.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

The festival of Holi has reached Muhlenberg’s campus, bringing with it color, light and joyous celebration.

read more on 6



Cole Geissler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

OP/ED

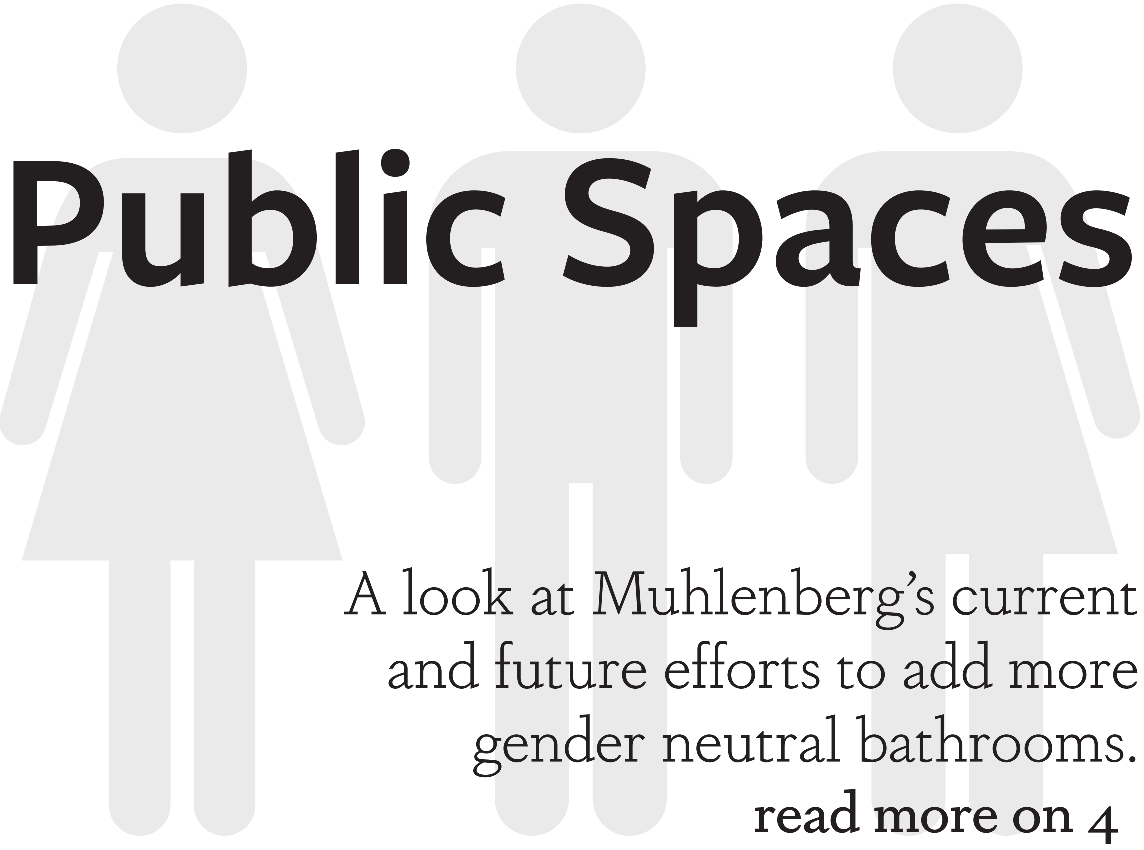
Paranormal encounter survivor Ian Adler chronicles his experiences with dark-energy-supernatural-higher-powers in a riveting, all-too-long 600-word piece.

read more on 9

SPORTS

With changes to come in Muhlenberg Athletic administration, editor Alyssa Hertel ‘18 asks where the department and programs hope to go.

read more on 10



Public Spaces

A look at Muhlenberg’s current and future efforts to add more gender neutral bathrooms.

read more on 4

Moving pains

Getting off campus can get complicated

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Public Relations

Though the college offers off-campus MILE properties, not every student wants to live within the college ecosystem.

As the current semester comes to a close, students are busy planning for next semester, and a major part of this includes living arrangements.

For most all this involves is finding suitable roommates and hoping for a good housing lottery number. Others decided to apply to live in MILE Houses or suites in the Village, Robertson and South. However, not all Muhlenberg students want to live in College-owned housing.

“We only allow a certain number of students to live off campus each year,” explained Kate Shelley, Associate Director of Residential Services. “Because the College guarantees housing to all students for four years — which is a benefit to students and families — we require students considering living off campus to complete an application. We have to ensure that a range of our beds on campus are full in order to have a vibrant and healthy residential community on campus.”

Brenden Weiss ‘20 and Jack Avallone ‘20 both intended to live off campus for the fall semester, but their applications were ultimately denied.

“I was intending to move off campus with another baseball player and two basketball players. We had our house in place since the middle of first semester with a lease ready to be signed, all we needed was the approval to live off campus,” said Weiss. “We are still not sure of the exact reason we were denied to live off campus. Everyone who was planning to live in the house met all the requirements and we submitted our application to live off campus in time.”

The only explanation Weiss could think of for being denied was that they did not submit the application on a specific date.

For Avallone, being denied was more than just a disappointment; he and his intended roommates had already signed a lease.

“We all had sent in a security deposit of over 700 dollars in which we do not get back because we signed the lease,” Avallone said. “To get out of our lease we had to go searching for

see **Off Campus** page 4

Troubling Truth Student Engagement Day

By Ali Watson
Senior Staff Writer

Last Friday, Apr. 20, was the Center for Ethics’ (CFE) first student run program this year. Over the course of the day, various discussions took place on campus regarding the topic “Troubling Truth.”

“In past years,” as Dr. Finkelstein, Co-Center for Ethics Organizer, explained “students in the Dana program have had an end of year event tied to the CFE programming and we wanted to create space for all interested students to participate in reflection in conversation.”

Dr. Finkelstein continued “This particular student event came about because Lora Taub-Pervizpour and I have had the wonderful luck of working with Rachel Liberty, our social media coordinator for CFE. In discussion with her, the three of us decided that it would be beneficial for students to have a space to organize and discuss how the CFE program, ‘Troubling Truth,’ came together throughout the year. Rachel took the lead from there and put together the April 20 program.”

Rachel Liberty ‘18 was the primary student organizer for the day and worked with Taub and Finkelstein to “discuss student opinions, needs and reactions to the events programmed by the Center for Ethics.”

Liberty continued, “We noted that although there is some time for Q & A after the event, there are often more questions than time allows for. Furthermore, unless you have a professor who discusses the talk in class, there is not a lot of time for students to engage with the content of the talk. “

Simply, there was a recognition that Muhlenberg’s campus lacked a space for appropriate reflection for students and other community members.

“Conversations about the

see **Ethics** page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, April 16

Injured Visitor - 3:06 p.m.
In Seegers Union, Second Floor, there was a report of an injured visitor. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and Allentown EMS also responded and transported the individual to the hospital.

Hit and Run - 3:27 p.m.
On the Back Drive, there was a report of a hit and run causing damage to a fence. The investigation is to continue.

Tuesday, April 17

Found Property - 11:44 a.m.
In the Center for the Arts, there was a report of a found cell phone. The owner later claimed the item.

Sick Student - 9:48 p.m.
In Taylor Hall, there was a report of a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Wednesday, April 18

Sick Employee - 12:16 p.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a sick employee. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the individual refused further treatment or transport.

Vehicle Violation - 1:19 p.m.
In the Faculty Lot, there was a report of a vehicle that was illegally parked with excessive tickets. The vehicle was booted by a Campus Safety Officer, and the boot was later removed.

Thursday, April 19

Vehicle Lock Out - 4:17 p.m.
In the Prosser Parking Lot, there was a report of keys locked in a vehicle. A Campus Safety Officer successfully retrieved keys from the vehicle.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 4:56 p.m.
In the Life Sports Center Field House, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding from cooking. The system was silenced and reset with no further incident.

Sick Student - 11:29 p.m.
In Prosser Hall, there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the student was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Friday, April 20

Fire Safety Violation - 4:13 p.m.
In Village 3 at 2255 Turner Street, there was a report of a covered smoke detector. The residents were identified and spoken to, and the cover was removed.

Saturday, April 21

Theft - 2:10 a.m.
In Seegers Union, there was a report of a theft of a sign. The individuals were later identified, and the sign was returned.

Animal Complaint - 8:52 p.m.
In the South Parking Lot, there was a report of a dog in a parked vehicle. Allentown Police Department responded. The owner of the vehicle later arrived, and there was no further incident.

Marijuana Possession - 10:16 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, there was a report of the smell of marijuana. The student was identified and spoken to, and nothing could be found at this time.

Sunday, April 22

Sick Visitor - 1:14 a.m.
In Brown Hall, there was a report of a sick visitor. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, and the individual refused further treatment or transport.

Accident - 6:00 p.m.
At Prosser Hall, there was a report of a hit and run to a vehicle, causing damage to the fender and wheel well. There are no suspects at this time.

Fire Alarm Sounding - 8:08 p.m.
In South Hall, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding as a result of cooking. The system was silenced and reset with no further incident.

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Time for change

Divestment advocates hope that switching up tactics will shift the College's money from black to green

By Ian Adler
Layout Editor

Last time I checked in with EnAcT's Divestment Initiative, heads hung rather low after a meeting with the Investment Committee of the Board of Trustees ended with no plan to get 'Berg's bucks out of the fossil fuels industry. Their third biannual meeting with the committee last October yielded plenty of praise, but no progress, inspiring a shift in the student's mindset and methodology.

In anticipation of their upcoming meeting with the Investment Committee on Friday, Apr. 27, Devin Domeyer '18, one of the lead organizers of the initiative, hopes to branch out with media and advertising campaigns to draw attention to the issue and branch out further than just the student body.

"In the beginning, it was just very confusing because no one really knew what divestment was or what it was asking to do," said Domeyer. "The more consistent things can stay, the more recognizable it will be, and the more immediately people will know."

When reflecting on past strategies like demonstrations and presentations, Domeyer notices the need for a change; in addition to a more vocal and consistent media presence, she hopes to use networking and outreach to gain some leverage over the Investment Committee.

"Right now, we don't have anything. They're like 'good job, you've done so much research and we are very impressed with you and we would like you to go home, do another six months of research and we will be all ears.' It's just a stalling campaign," said Domeyer.

One of the group's newest ideas is to spread the word about the college's current investments in the Environmental Social Governance (ESG) account, which includes stakes in companies like Exxon that profit directly from the fossil fuel industry.

"We all recognize the serious nature of climate change and the impact that the burning of fossil fuels has on our environment. However, we do need to take into consideration the fact that the global economy would not function without these energy sources that we depend on," said Douglas Peebles, Trustee and Chair of the Investment Committee, in an email interview in October. "It is our belief that Muhlenberg can be good citizens of the Earth without divesting completely from fossil fuels."

Sure, there's more green at Muhlenberg than out on the front lawn. There's automatic lights in most buildings, recycling bins in every room in every dorm and even a few toilets that flush in a water savvy way. "Being good citizens of the earth," however, extends further than sending a Gatorade bottle or two off to the recycling plant – it's attacking the issue at the (*grass*)*roots*. Progress and sustainability is about an open and driven mind, ready to institute change on a more systematic level.

> **"Even if I had the best plan that was endorsed by the best hedge fund managers in the country, because it's in a student's hand being given to the investment committee, they will totally brush it off. It doesn't matter at all."**

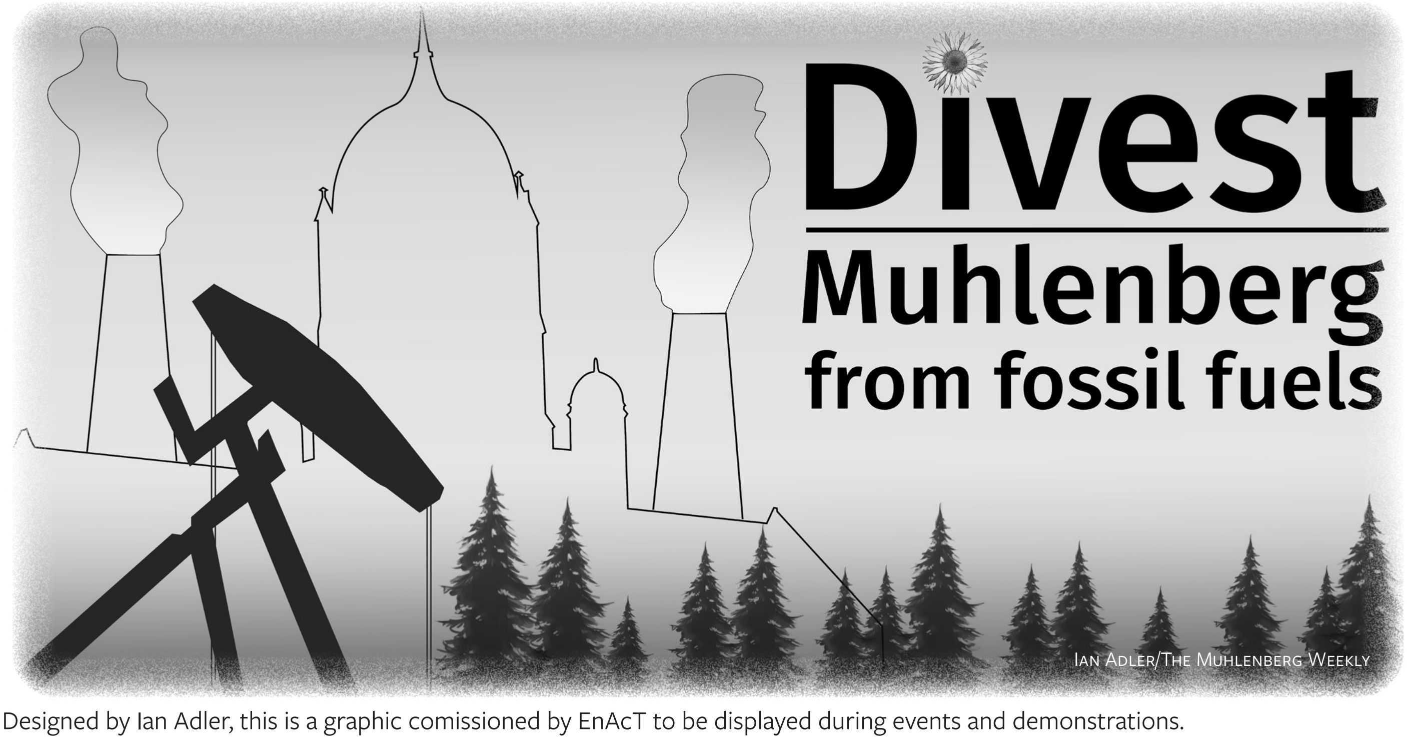
"Even if I had the best plan that was endorsed by the best hedge fund managers in the country, because it's in a student's hand being given to the Investment Committee, they will totally brush it off. It doesn't matter at all," said Domeyer. "I'm just so sick of them rolling over students and pretending like we have some kind of input in things but it's just nominal. It's like a big conveyor belt that they just move [us] out."

Admittedly, fossil fuels are profitable in the current market and with the college looking to expand its available funds in anticipation of the Master Plan, fossil fuels' direct dividends surely show plenty of promise to the committee. But what about long-term returns on the growing clean energy market? What about the moral and ethical issues at play? None of these considerations seem to be factoring into the Investment Committee's view on where the students', donors' and stakeholders' money should be going.

"The past three meetings we've gone to, we've kind of laid out a very logical financial argument for why it wouldn't be so risky to take all money out of fossil fuels and then we peppered it with the moral and ethical reasons why they shouldn't be invested in it, and that hasn't worked," said Domeyer. "You feel so small when you go to these meetings because they just belittle you and patronize you and they're like 'you don't know what you're talking about.'"

With potential kick-off campaigns, continued media and physical outreach and the usual bi-annual meetings with the Investment Committee, EnAcT and a graduating Domeyer serve as liaisons to 'Berg's aspiring and acting environmentalists. If you're interested in attending the Divestment meeting on Friday, Apr. 27, contact Devin dd250073@muhlenberg.edu or attend an EnAcT meetings on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. in Seegers 108.

"The idea is that this should become something that doesn't rely on just a couple people to keep it going – other people are able to step in to the role because there's enough structure that it's easily able to pick up," said Domeyer. "We're still here, we're still talking about this."



Ian Adler/The Muhlenberg Weekly

Designed by Ian Adler, this is a graphic comissioned by EnAcT to be displayed during events and demonstrations.

from **Ethics** page 3

events are often held in friend groups, and often do not transcend the boundaries of these groups. We thought a student-led event where students and faculty could come together to think about these issues would be a beneficial way to end the semester" said Liberty.

"It was originally just a common hour event but I decided to add the morning workshops to add more depth to some of the topics I felt were on students' minds."

Finkelstein agreed, "having a student-run series of workshops and discussions as a culminating event for CFE′s program felt critical - while the year-long program was collaborative, interdisciplinary and linked to 20 different courses throughout the academic year."

"While the previous events this year brought new ideas and conversations to our campus, the event on April 20 allowed students to both make connections across multiple events and explore the questions still lingering from the guests we hosted this year. Rachel, Lora and I felt like it was crucial to end the year with this space for student engagement, discussion and reflection."

On Friday morning there were three student-led workshops: "The Costs of Comedy: Who can Afford Trump?" which examined what satire really means and who it is excusable to. The second workshop "Deconstructing Dialogue: New Ways of Conversing with Israel/Palestine Discourse" unpacked the contentious reactions to Sae'ed Atshan's talk on growing up in Palestine and examined the language we use to have conversations and asked participants to self-reflect on when they feel respected and disrespected. The third and final morning workshop was "Examining the Opioid Crisis" which unpacked the very term "opioid crisis" and examined the pharmaceutical industries role in the issue.

At the end of the day Liberty ran a common hour discussion, which "reflected on the Troubling Truth series as a whole" where they "unpacked how Muhlenberg grapples with complex dialogues."

Liberty says that "she did not have a lot of expectations" for the event as it was "the first of event of this nature." That said, she did have "goals for engaging students in a meaningful way with the content of our talks this year and I do believe that was accomplished."

"I think what's unique about it is that it gives students the chance to talk about what they want to reflect on about the talk, rather than what their professor might pick out as important. I think it gives students more power in the discussion. I really appreciated that faculty participants contributed to the discussions without trying to dominate them, for the most part. I think this event brought together students across campus who might not have ever had class together or talked to each other and gave space for communal reflection."

Finally, Liberty says she hopes that "after I graduate the center continues to build and expand student run events."

"I think student engagement is extremely valuable," said Liberty, "and there is certainly plenty of room for growth in this area."

Public Spaces

By Chloe Gravereaux
Asst. Managing Editor

Short and long-term plans for adding more gender-neutral bathrooms on campus are underway, including replacing select gendered bathrooms with gender neutral restrooms.

There are currently 17 bathrooms marked gender neutral on campus, and a committee chaired by Dean of Students Allison Gulati, which includes representatives of Students for Queer Advocacy (SQuAD), Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition (MTAC), Plant Operations, Student Government Association and Residential Services are looking to add more. The committee is currently drafting a statement of work, establishing a timeline and selecting which restrooms' signage will be changed from men's and women's rooms to gender neutral. Much is still up for discussion and no dates have been set, but the overall goal of the project is to follow societal gender-inclusive and LGBTQ progress, affirm the college's commitment to nonconforming and transgender community members and to make spaces more accessible to visitors and students of all gender identities.

> **"Part of the new strategic plan for the College and also specifically the plan for Student Affairs is to continue to make Muhlenberg as equitable and inclusive as possible."**

″Part of the new strategic plan for the College and also specifically the plan for Student Affairs is to continue to make Muhlenberg as equitable and inclusive as possible." said Gulati. "I have experience leading projects related to the expansion of gender inclusive housing and restrooms and I am very excited to work with our students and faculty on this initiative. Our students in SGA, SQuAD and MTAC have already done significant ground work and will provide a strong foundation for us to build upon. I am very grateful for their commitment to this work.″

Alexa Urbach '18, one of the students on the committee and a member of SQuAd, has been pushing for gender neutral bathrooms her four years at 'Berg.

"I believe that it′s essential to have these spaces for individuals whose gender identity doesn′t align with the binary of male and female," said Urbach. "Gender inclusive bathrooms and/or housing is also important for students who are questioning their gender identity, unable to physically transition in the ways they′d like to or are in the process of transitioning and may not 'pass' as the gender they identify with."

Posters appeared in the Seegers Union stairs, posted by SQuAd and MTAC, addressing Board of Trustee members and stating that "Moyer has more restrooms than required by building code -- turning one restroom into a gender-neutral restroom would require no renovations and therefore no additional cost to the college."

A large part of the project is simply getting proper signage, explained Dr. Mello, Associate Dean of Diversity and chairman of the President′s Diversity Advisory Council.

Part of Mello's job as Associate Dean of Diversity is to oversee the implementation of the diversity strategic plan, introduced in 2013, part of which was creating gender-neutral bathroom signage. Gender neutral bathroom signs were introduced in 2015, and the campus map was updated in 2017 to include locations of all gender neutral restrooms on campus.

"So the plan was creating [gender neutral bathrooms] and clearly marking them so they could be easily identifiable on campus maps and also on signage in different buildings." said Mello. "On a technical level, it was fulfilled. We did create some where there were none. We did post signage where there was none. I think for many students, and for those of us involved with President′s Diversity Advisory Council, just having one or two wasn't enough. The idea was to look at ways we can expand gender neutral bathrooms, and the awareness of them is more accessible both on our webpage, on our campus maps."

What's up for discussion, said Mello, is how many bathrooms will be designated gender neutral, and how many will remain men and women's restrooms. Some colleges, Mello noted, have only gender neutral bathrooms.

Additional initiatives in the strategic plan included online diversity training for faculty, making changing names on college records and IDs easier for trans students, better communicate gender-neutral housing policies to freshmen and add fostering inclusion, justice and social equity to job descriptions.

from **Off Campus** page 1

someone who would like to live in the house."

Shelley says that the policy and related advertising instruct students not to sign a lease prior to receiving approval from ORS.

"Some students assumed that they would be approved and signed a lease prior to receiving their approval or denial. " Shelley said. "So some of them who were denied had signed leases, but are required to live on campus per Muhlenberg Policies."

Avallone said that they had applied through the Office of Residential Services (ORS) using the form provided.

"We were never informed that the school was going to cut down on the number of people who were going to move off campus. Now it put us into a tough situation because we had to scramble for new housing arrangements," Avallone added.

> **"They give priorities to seniors who want to live off campus and then juniors."**

"Living off campus is not a right, it is an option that fewer than 10% of the campus can use in a given year," said Shelley. "Denials are made for a number of reasons: academic or judicial ineligibility, late applications, failure to complete necessary paperwork or training, or because there is a cap on the number and this year more students applied than could be approved."

The latter reasoning for denials may explain Avallone and Weiss' scenario. This does not make Avallone feel any better, however.

"The reason why we were denied to go off campus was mainly because they want more people to live on campus," Avallone said. "They give priorities to seniors who want to live off campus and then juniors. Unfortunately it takes away from students who want to live in the privacy of their own home."

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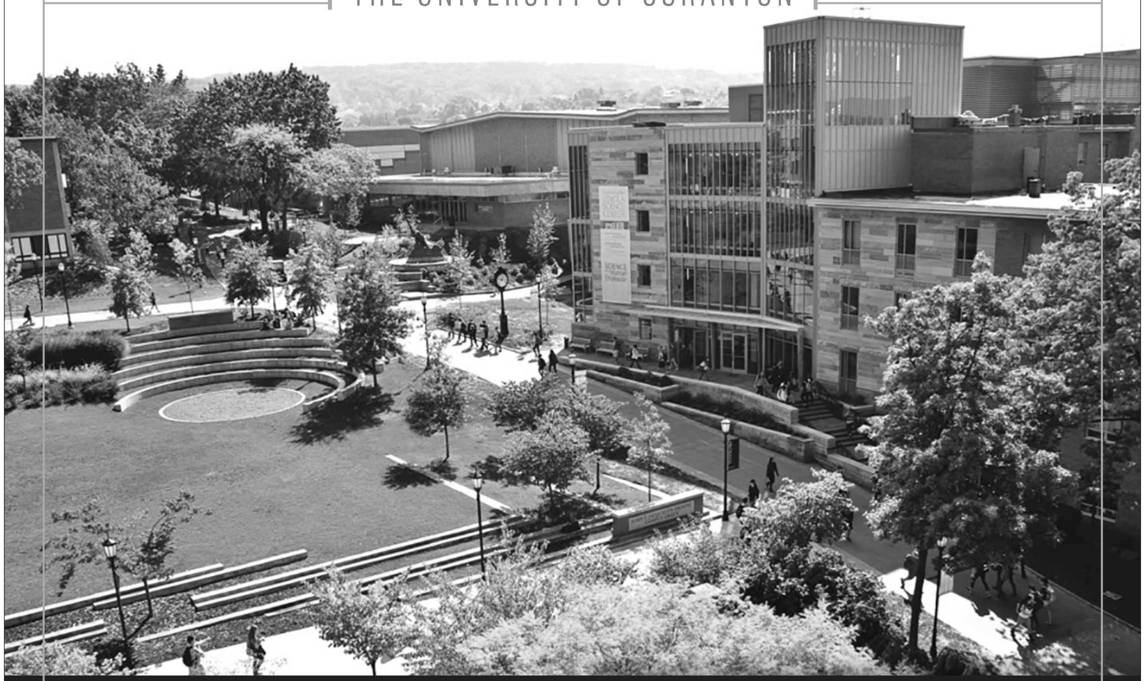

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"Dance is the hidden language of the soul of the body."
-Martha Graham

International Fashion Show:
ASO shines a spotlight on African fashion

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

On Saturday, the African Student Organization hosted their second-ever International Fashion Show in the Great Room in Seegers Union. This semester's fashion show was presented following the success of the same event that the organization held last semester. As Sephora Delice '21, one of the models in the fashion show, explained, the fashion show was "a representation of the African culture all together." The fashion show was presented as a celebration of all of these different cultures, and it truly was just that – a celebration. The excitement and enthusiasm in the room was contagious; everyone in the audience consistently cheered loudly for each model in the fashion show, showing all of their excitement and support. The enthusiasm in the audience was also reflected in the models in the show. Each model was clearly enjoying themselves, and their joy made the fashion show even more fun for the people in the audience.

The International Fashion Show had three different parts. The first part of the show included the modelling of articles of clothing that were dressy yet casual. For the second part of the show, the style of clothing switched to more laidback streetwear. The third and final part of the show included more formal articles of clothing. For each of these three parts of the fashion show, apart from a few articles of clothing in the streetwear section, all of the clothes that were modelled were in the style of traditional African cultures. All were very brightly colored, covering the models in red, blue, yellow and more. Another notable aspect of the clothing modelled was its many different patterns. Many of the patterns were geometric, but others had patterns with images of flowers or animals. Frequently, the outfits came from companies, but on a few occasions, students wore their own outfits. For each model that went down the runway during the fashion show, the model's name was announced, and the item of clothing they would be modelling was described, which allowed the audience to get a better idea of what they would be seeing when the model walked down the runway.

"After the fashion show, people were able to know more about the kinds of clothes that are worn in Africa."

Delice described her hopes that "after the fashion show, people were able to know more about the kinds of clothes that are worn in Africa," and judging by the clothing modelled and the reaction from members of the audience, her hopes were realized. Traditional African clothing was also represented in the dance between the first and second parts of the fashion show. During the dance, several of the female students, a few of whom also modelled in the fashion show itself, performed a dance to music in the style of African culture. All of the dancers wore African robes over their clothes.

The fashion show was not only beneficial to audience members, but also impacted those participating in it. Delice describes being part of the fashion show as "an amazing experience."

"Before coming out on the runway, I was extremely nervous, but when I did go out, it felt so great," said Delice. "The best part of the fashion show was being able to show off all the different types of clothing in my own way. It was also really fun to entertain the audience."

Shana Joseph / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Grace Duah '20, Wilhelmina Minney '19, and Asherd Gill '20 walk down the runway at the ASO-hosted event.

'Berg choirs present "Dark Night of the Soul"

By Lauren Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

To question the balance and where the line is drawn, as well as when art is considered an object or an experience — such things and more are what the Chamber Choir and Women's Ensemble addressed in "Dark Night of the Soul," their final concert of the year, which took place on Apr. 21 in Egner Chapel. The concert itself was a meditative experience, and I found myself becoming contemplative in my thoughts and surroundings. I had been transported from the space of a Chapel to an open space; constricting walls became unobstructed paths, mindful silence became attentive listening. This is the authority and power of a chorus.

"'Dark Night' was especially fun because it was minimalistically beautiful."

The first piece sung by the Women's Ensemble that I personally enjoyed was Ēriks Ešenvalds' "Only in Sleep." A piece with layers and layers of musical voices entwining with each other, "Only in Sleep" holds a thick texture. It begins with a soloist, who sings the song's namesake for the first time. Gentle, yet piercing, her voice soars. As the rest of the ensemble supports her, humming harmonies which function as a basis for the soloist, the piece in its entirety is a capella. In many ways, this piece reflects much of Women's Ensemble's strengths; the accuracy in pitch and dynamics was astonishing. Each chord progression was spotless in motion, and I was truly moved by their performance. To me, it sung as a piece of memory, as said in the

see **Night** page 7

A colorful tradition

By Amisha Datta
Contributing Writer

Holi, the Indian festival of colors, is often one of the most circulated images of India in the world, along with the Taj Mahal and, sometimes, fancy elephants. While Holi is not nearly complex enough to entirely represent the Indian subcontinent, it conveys a beautiful message that I am proud to call one of my traditions. Holi is both an Indian holiday and a Hindu holiday with many stories discussing its origins; as Top Naach is a cultural club, our Holi event revolved less around religion and ritual and more around the culture. Celebrating the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring and emphasizing love, friendship and family, Holi has always been a wonderful part of my life. Growing up in the diaspora, I got used to celebrating Holi with small groups of family friends and learned to love the curious onlookers. Whether in Michigan, India or even China, my family and our friends could always be found throwing colors on each other to celebrate the joyous occasion.

When I arrived at Muhlenberg, I knew that I would be a part of Top Naach. I've danced my whole life and was not about to let college stop me from feeling the dhol in my bones. Top Naach has been one of the greatest joys of my first year on campus, and has helped me find a community full of love, laughs and support. I was genuinely surprised by how many non-Indians were in Top Naach, and how proud and excited they all were to learn about Indian and South Asian culture. Never in my life did I think I would make samosas, dance to Des Rangila or throw colors with so many people of so many different backgrounds.

Celebrating on campus was a new experience for me. In India this year, Holi was celebrated in mid-March, but at Muhlenberg we celebrated last week. The event had a great turn out, and it was so heartwarming to take part in something so special. A friend of mine thanked me for "bringing some culture to campus" and I knew exactly what she meant. It was refreshing to see our predominantly white school in the middle of our predominantly red state painted every color of the rainbow. I was proud to have been a part of all of it and was so happy to see my culture taking center stage.

It's easy in times like these to get lost in the neverending news cycle of walls, exclusion and hatred. There are days where it feels like there is no light at the end of the tunnel. Celebrating Holi at Muhlenberg reminded me not to only focus on the negatives, but to focus on making change. It wasn't that long ago that Top Naach didn't exist on campus, and now we host events that garner attention and attendance from students and faculty alike. One day I hope that I won't be the only person of color in a classroom here at Muhlenberg, and that Diwali and Holi won't be the only representations of my beautiful and rich heritage. Until then, we'll keep spreading joy and awareness through our culture, and making our campus as colorful as it can be.

Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Top: Cash Calderon '19, Rebecca Shear '21, Jack Van Burik '21.
Bottom: Marta Rardin '20, Greta Ohanian '20, Sara Flash '20, Nisha Godbole '20, Emily Panetta '20, Karly McCloskey '20

Artist of the week: Mike Schatz

Actor, bassist, vocal percussionist, and not least of all: photographer

By Marissa Tomeo
Contributing Writer

Mike Schatz '19: the massively tall, incredibly talented, seemingly intimidating man traverses the campus of Muhlenberg every day.

While his gigantic presence might seem daunting to some, especially the vertically-challenged, he is truly Muhlenberg's own Big Friendly Giant. While the junior is an active theatre major, most recently seen in the Mainstage production of *Sunday in the Park with George*, he is also a talented bassist and vocal percussionist for the Muhlenberg Dynamics a capella group. However, in light of all his achievements, his skills in digital photography often go unnoticed.

Schatz is a studio art minor with a concentration in photography who grew up playing with cameras as a child. He recalled a particular interest in playing with angles and moving furniture around his house as a kid to capture the perfect shot with his shiny digital camera. While his mother took a casual interest in photography and making home videos, his real interest in photography first began when he was just five years old. Schatz remembered his brother getting a digital camera as a gift, and, being attracted to its metallic lustre, Schatz proceeded to steal the camera. Much to his family's annoyance, he decided to place it on a shelf in the house after a week of keeping it captive and pretend like he found it there.

His interest in photography continued to evolve throughout his adolescence, specifically as he took a graphic design class in high school. However, in the rush of the college applications and the adjustment process, Schatz's love of photography fell to the wayside as his passion for theatrical arts principally consumed his time and energy. During the second semester of his freshman year, he took a digital photography course with Professor Greta Bergstresser, where he learned the basics of photography, such as the rule of thirds and basic Photoshop editing skills. This rekindled his love for taking pictures. The next semester, he continued to develop his talent, enrolling in intermediate digital photography, which eventually lead him to choose studio art as a minor.

Depending on what he's photographing, Schatz shows up 30 minutes to an hour prior to a shoot to set up his shots and make sure all of the equipment is in order and working. When asked about facing artistic blocks, Schatz said, "I don't think there is a shortage of things to photograph — there is a shortage or deficit of ways to produce an image through the editing process."

Marissa Tomeo / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Mike Schatz '19 digitally edits one of his photos.

Schatz also discussed his anxieties over whether to edit an image or not, saying that he sometimes has a difficult time deciding when a picture should be considered finished. However, Schatz often drives, walks or bikes to familiar locations and attempts to look at the area from a new perspective, angle or outlook to take pictures to clear his mind. He said that when he returns to the image giving him difficulty, he often has come across new ideas that help him make the proper artistic decisions to make his work the best it can be.

When looking for subjects to capture with his camera, Schatz stated that he "looks for idiosyncratic things that would capture an audience — things that are high up or low to the ground are good to photograph because they're out of the regular line of sight." He also loves outdoor lighting that isn't typical because nature contrasts so much differently and allows for more unique pictures.

As for continuing this talent post-college, Schatz says that he loves photography, but hopes his passion for theatre will dictate his career path.

FROM **NIGHT** PAGE 5

song's lyrics: "Only in sleep I see their faces, Children I played with when I was a child ... Do they, too, dream of me, I wonder, And for them am I too a child?"

"Dark Night of the Soul," the essential piece which the concert surrounds in nature and body, is as complex as it is beautiful. Written by Ola Gjeilo and sung by the Chamber Choir, the piece, like "Only in Sleep," was thick in texture and design.

A piece with layers and layers of musical voices entwining with each other, "Only in Sleep" holds a thick texture.

"I love Gjeilo's music a lot because of the beautiful textures he creates," described Max Kasler '20, a member of the Chamber Choir. "'Dark Night' was especially fun because it was minimalistically beautiful. It's such a long piece, which means there's a lot of music to dig into, and it's just a gorgeous piece of music. It's also seldom but fun for choirs here to work with a string quartet."

"Dark Night of the Soul" begins with the choir and string quartet performing in sync. It's exciting, as the orchestra perpetuates the whole ensemble towards an unknown destination.

Holly Morgan '18, also a member of the Chamber Choir, further describes the epic:

"My favorite piece to sing was 'Dark Night of the Soul' by Ola Gjeilo. The harmonic tone and epic quality of the piece makes one feel as if there is an ocean of sound coursing through their veins. There is something inherently powerful about being engulfed in a body of sound like that one, and I found myself close to tears every time we sang the entire piece. It was also a musical challenge switching between time and key signatures at the drop of a hat - you always had to be on your toes while performing this one or you were completely lost."

Such an experience honestly describes my own thoughts about the concert as a whole. It was an enriching experience and almost overwhelming in the sound and acoustics that were provided. Powerful music with an equally powerful ensemble, as well as emotionally driven content, flooded my senses and I was, in the end, mesmerized with its faculty of influence and complete control. The concert was unique and honestly beautiful, and I am honored to have experienced it in its splendor.

Towards the heavens

Dance Emerge 2018 highlights student and faculty talent

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Photo Courtesy of Fig Tree Photography

Chelsea Carnevale '19 and Caitlin Burns '18 pose mid-reach in Nikki Gagliano's 19's "Dissociate" during Dance Emerge 2018.

As the semester winds down, events pile up – meetings, projects, final concerts and more all desperately fight their way into our schedules, assigning each minute its own urgent task. Still, there are a few shining opportunities left to simply observe and enjoy as something miraculous happens before us, to just be for a while in a world where the rules of existence are rewritten into something entirely new.

One such opportunity was last weekend's Dance Emerge, a two-act showcase of work from some of the most prized student and faculty choreographers Muhlenberg has to offer. From experimental comedic pieces to a crowd of ballerinas clad in black, Dance Emerge certainly shines a spotlight on the many varied techniques utilized in the dance department. Despite the fact that Dance Emerge comes as the third mainstage dance show of the year, following Moving Stories in the fall and Master Choreographers in the winter, its highly personal setting manages to distinguish this incarnation of Muhlenberg talent from the rest. Dancer Olivia Garcia '20 notes that Dance Emerge has its own distinct atmosphere.

"There's something odd about having audience members face each other and having to choreograph [so] both sides can experience the piece."

"The rehearsal process for Dance Emerge is kind of hectic, because it starts as Master Choreographers is beginning its technical rehearsals/show week," Garcia said. "So, for those involved in that as well, it is definitely a crazy time. Dance Emerge is also different from other shows because there are two fronts to that stage – the audience sits on both sides. So, when creating a work, the choreographer has to remember that and be aware that everyone should have an equally exciting viewing experience, no matter where they are sitting."

This staging was one of the most striking aspects of the show to me – each of the dancers always had to either be facing somewhat towards the other side of the audience or turned completely one way whilst others faced another. Emily Ancona '18, one of the show's five student choreographers, recalls that the demands of the space certainly affected the way she constructed her dance.

"The new way the theater was set up was definitely a challenge," said Ancona. "There's something odd about having audience members face each other and having to choreograph [so] both sides can experience the piece."

Though the strategic positioning of the dancers was transparent for the first few pieces as I got acclimated to the setup of the stage, as the show went on, the tactics choreographers used to ensure that all audience members got an equal view faded into the background as the works themselves asserted their prominence. Still, the show's opener was one of the standout dances of the entire showcase: an all-important tap piece, Shelley Oliver's "City Rapids," began the program with just the boost of energy and impressiveness that the 8:00 p.m. crowd needed.

Despite the fact that it only consisted of three dancers, Emily Berridge '18, Alison Calamoneri '18 and Becca Phillips '18, this work was spellbinding. I could only tear my eyes away from the dancers' constantly moving yet supremely controlled feet to watch their joyous expressions as they twirled, hopped and ball-changed their way through a rhythm of their own making. Though all three of these women are seniors, I certainly hope that the tap pieces they've contributed so much to will not cease to be upon their graduation – and, by the audience's thunderous applause as the trio took their bows, the theatre and dance community isn't quite ready to give them up either.

Another highlight of the show was Noah S. Dach's piece "Tethered," which made use of two bungee cords in order to help its dancers "fly." Shantell Cruz '19 and Nicollette Amico '18 nearly touched the catwalk of the Black Box as they reached out towards the heavens, approaching each other and the other dancers on stage but never quite making contact. According to Garcia, experiencing the piece as a dancer gave her a unique perspective on its significance and meaning.

A single work can completely change one's mood, can alter how they go about the rest of their day

"The work was really dynamic, exciting and multilayered," Garcia said. "The concept of the work was about fallen angels, but more than that, to me, it was about falling, releasing and then catching yourself again. There were many huge and explosive moments in the work that required huge spurts of energy, and we as dancers had to continue to power through them as if constantly being chased. I felt as though the work made people feel like they were on the edge of their seats, and to me, that creates excitement and has the audience invested in the work, which is always really rewarding."

"Tethered" certainly provided its viewers with an intriguing narrative: though at first it seemed as though the two flying dancers were almost superhuman, soaring higher and skimming lower than any of the others might dare, it was later clear that they were bound to their cords, tethered to one place. While the surrounding dancers lifted each other effortlessly to heights almost as ambitious as those reached by the flyers, the flyers themselves could not seem to connect to anyone – not even the invisible force they reached out to as they floated towards the ceiling.

On a more optimistic note, Ancona's piece "Gardenia" was an absolute delight to behold. Featuring five dancers dressed in various shades of bright yellow, orange and red, the work was a slice of sunshine. Each dancer was like a flower child, their hair braided and loose as they intertwined with the others in sweet movements of bliss.

"This piece was inspired sort of by being a senior this year and trying to appreciate the people around me," said Ancona. "I wanted the piece to be very intimate and warm, so I found a lot of inspiration for choreography through my cast, having them assist in choreography too."

This piece reminded me why dance shows are so integral to the diversity and roundedness of the arts at Muhlenberg: with only a few notes, some well-designed costumes and the vision and talent of choreographers and dancers alike, a single work can completely change one's mood, can alter how they go about the rest of their day. Dance has the power to change us by reflecting back what the human form can do. Dance lets us know what we're capable of. Dance reminds us that within every move we make, there's a story – a story that might like to be told.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS&EDITORIALS

Editorial

Save student newsrooms

"Vol. 1, No. 1! ... Our Alma Mater has never had a regular periodical, but that is no reason why she should not have one," wrote an enterprising group of young men at a small college on the east end of Allentown. "We enter upon with the firm conviction that a publication of this description will supply a long-felt want, and that it can be of perpetual benefit to our college."

Of course, the 'alma mater' in question in the above 1883 article is Muhlenberg and the publication none other than The Muhlenberg Weekly (at that point in time it was officially known as the "Muhlenberg Monthly"). There have certainly been many changes since 1883 — including a relocation to the present-day home in Allentown's west end, 11 presidents, and the introduction of co-education — but one constant remains: The Muhlenberg Weekly.

The truth is that student newsrooms — including ours — have long been a reliable, hyper-local news source, covering issues that would otherwise go unaddressed. We take pride in being among the official voices of the student body and serving as the official paper-of-record for our campus. Sure, there have been some bumps along the way, but all things considered, The Weekly stands stronger now than it has in decades.

However, the same cannot be said for student newsrooms elsewhere in the country.

Recently, The Daily Campus, Southern Methodist University's student paper, was forced to re-affiliate with the university due to lack of funding. Unfortunately, The Daily Campus is hardly the only student-run publication to face such a decision to either grasp a lifeline and risk editorial independence or shut down. Out of The Daily Campus' plight came a call to action from the leadership of The Independent Florida Alligator, who have brought together more than 100 student newsrooms for a day of action on Wednesday, April 25, and have asked writers to do what they do best — write.

To be sure, we write this editorial very much from a place of privilege — thankfully, this editorial is not a fundraising plea. We are fortunate to be financially supported almost exclusively by student funds that are allocated to us by the Student Government Association. Though we've certainly had our quibbles with SGA in the past, we are grateful that they continue to value the role of student journalism at Muhlenberg.

But for a college that no longer has a journalism major, the majority of us will leave our newsroom having ended their career in journalism. So why do we do it? Sure, we do it for the fun on lengthy Tuesday production nights, for the camaraderie, for the development of valuable post-graduate skills. But above all, we do it to serve the greater Muhlenberg community.

To echo our predecessors from over a century ago: We do it because we believe that The Muhlenberg Weekly can be of perpetual benefit to the college.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Why commuting was the right choice for me

By Chloe Gravereaux
Asst. Managing Editor

I stood in the second floor girls wing of Walz Hall during the orientation hall meeting, shuffled a little off to the side, staring at the grey carpet. A girl from my orientation group had brought me back to her dorm for the hour long "hall meet" scheduled into orientation. Around 30 girls were seated in a circle in the hall on chairs and the floor. I was the only girl standing, and trying not to draw attention to myself. After the RA introduced herself, she began with hall ice breakers, and, because I was the closest to her, suddenly pointed at me, and asked me for my name and what I did over the summer. All eyes turned to look at me. I started to answer, then cut myself off.

"Wait — I'm a commuter. I don't even live here. Why am I even answering this?"

The first few weeks of school were more of the same — I was given a worksheet in my French class that asked multiple questions about the life in my dorm. I couldn't answer any of those. Because, well, I didn't live in a dorm.

I was one of about five commuting freshmen in the class of 2019, and I spent my first two years driving back and forth to campus from my parents' home. I only just moved onto campus this year, as a junior.

In conversation, I kept my reasons purely financial. My parents and I chose Muhlenberg for its proximity to my childhood home in Emmaus, one town over. It made more sense to both me and my parents to invest $3,000 in a new car that I would use until I was 25 than to shell out six times that much per year for me to move 20 minutes down the road. I took on the lightest meal plan I could, worked two once-a-week jobs to pay for gas money and to build my savings.

In reality, I was very much convinced that life in a hall was something that I did not want. Why would I willingly jam myself in a shoebox of a room with dingy classroom floors that would never be clean, furniture that had seen god knows what, with a stranger who I had never met before who would have access to all my possessions (including my journals and my tampons) every day for an entire academic year, when I could have my own space with my own cat and my own bathroom, that didn't cost my parents a thing? (Splurging an extra $1,000 dollars on a single in Taylor was out of the question. I was an underclassman, after all, and already on the lowest meal plan to save my parents another $1,000 dollars).

By the end of the year, it became clear that I had made the right choice. I made the Dean's List and by the second semester was a budding reporter, taking on the title of News Editor for The Muhlenberg Weekly, despite being on campus literally only for classes, lunch, and the newspaper.

Despite knowing all of this, one of my best friends called me sheltered "because of the commuting sitch," and I would have written them off had another friend not said the same, unprompted, at a different time. I've received praise from administration for getting myself involved on campus despite being a commuter, and while doing research for a project, I was told that statistically students who live closer to campus do better academically than students who live off campus.

In reality, living with my parents for two more years wasn't a challenge to overcome, and it certainly isn't a sign of weakness or coddling. Undoubtedly, I'm sure a lot of students wished they had that luxury. The simple fact that students are expected to be okay with leaving the homes we've lived in and the friends we've known for 18 years to live in a new environment with a total stranger is completely ludicrous when you think about it.

I was already going through a lot of changes as a freshman, from learning the ins and outs of syllabi, lectures, college-level essay writing and exams, in a new environment with new people. I walked into the dining hall about two weeks into the semester and realized, for the first time in 10 years, I was in a room full of my peers where I didn't recognize a single face. In the midst of all this change, it was nice to come home to my childhood room and a home cooked meal. Having this consistency actually made my transition into college easier.

And there's nothing wrong with taking the easy way out. It doesn't make me any less of a member of the community or any less a student because I didn't have a door with my name on it.

That being said, I did miss out on a lot those first two years — which is one of the reasons I decided to move out.

Now that I've better established myself on campus, have a stable friend group, and have moved up into management on The Weekly, it's more necessary for me to be close by. And, quite frankly, more enjoyable.

I never realized how much of student life was devoted to sharing space with people who are just as clueless as you. Something as simple as doing homework in a group at 1 a.m. at the library, or going grocery shopping with a group on a Saturday, or having someone to go out to a fancy lunch with once a week — those are the things I missed in living at home. But they were also things I wouldn't have been able to do as a freshman without the friends I've made since then.

In the end, I don't regret living at home for an extra two years (And my parents' wallets certainly don't either). In honesty, I kind of miss it. My limited hours on campus forced me to use my time on campus wisely, and fill it with as many appointments, interviews, and faculty office hours as I could, and then I would return to my room to focus on the rest of my work.

Nowadays my evenings are filled with dinner with friends, study sessions at the library, interviews for The Weekly, PetSmart night shifts, walks in the park across the street, and hanging out in friends' dorms. It takes a juggling act to get everything done, and navigating that schedule as a freshman would have been nearly impossible.

Next year, I'll be living just up from campus. My best friend and co-editor Lauren and I are going to move in together to a MILE house and we honestly can't wait to be roomates. We'd wanted to be roommates, but before I got a job it wasn't possible for me. Now, I have something to make my senior year special — living with my best friend.

And I have no doubt, just like waiting to move out, that will be the right choice for me, too.

Sexy or sexism?

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

The first superhero film I ever saw directed by a woman was Patty Jenkins's "Wonder Woman." It meant a lot to me that the most famous female superhero was getting a stand-alone movie. It meant even more that it was being directed by a woman. Not once was Diana objectified, there was no gratuitous shots of her breasts or butt and no gags revolving around either (looking at you Joss Whedon and the crap you pulled in "Avengers" and "Justice League").

It was so refreshing to see a story about a woman as told by a woman, especially in a genre that panders to men. You cannot deny that the comic industry caters to fanboys: women are constantly drawn wearing skimpy and impractical costumes, posed at angles that accentuate their bodies and are ridiculously anatomically incorrect. Their storylines consistently paint them as weaker than their male counterparts. Not to mention number-wise there are significantly fewer female characters. If you need proof, just look at the main team people think of when they think of the Justice League: Batman, Superman, Green Lantern, Aquaman, Flash and Wonder Woman.

Recently there has been some strides made to get rid of some of this sexism in the industry. Fan movements such as the Hawkeye Initiative, where artists and even cosplayers put male characters in costumes and poses typically used for female characters, have helped to bring these issues to people's attention. The increase in creative teams spearheaded by women and Babs Tarr's most recent Batgirl redesign eliminating a form-fitting spandex costume in favor of practicality are a definite step in a better direction.

While there is still work to be done in the comics industry, the movie adaptations leave even more to be desired. "Wonder Woman", "Thor: Ragnarok" and "Black Panther" have been some of the best superhero movies in recent memory. This is likely thanks to the unique creative voices of their directors — people who have typically been marginalized — Patty Jenkins, Taika Waititi and Ryan Coogler. It is still not often that you see a woman, maori or black director helming such major films. Yet their work is proof that these are the people who should be creating these movies.

DC has recently announced Ava DuVernay, who recently directed Disney's "A Wrinkle in Time", to direct an upcoming film about Jack Kirby's New Gods and Cathy Yan has been tapped to direct the Margot Robbie produced "Birds of Prey" movie, in which Robbie will reprise her role of Harley Quinn. "Birds of Prey" will center around DC's female characters and is being written by Christina Hodson. I happen to be a huge fan of the "Birds of Prey" comics and characters and the concept of a nearly all female creative team makes me extremely excited. Although, Joss Whedon leaving the upcoming Batgirl movie is just as exciting.

A nearly all female creative team working on the "Birds of Prey" adaptation seems poetic to me. The team itself is an all female hero who work on covert missions featuring a vast number of DC's female characters. Robbie had gotten to know the characters through research she did into her character for "Suicide Squad." Reading the Gotham City Sirens comics that feature Harley Quinn, Poison Ivy and Catwoman, Robbie fell in love with the women of DC Comics and pushed the studio to greenlight the upcoming project.

Hopefully Marvel Studios and Warner Bros. will realize that their fan base is not a stereotype and will stop creating movies targeted towards them. Instead hiring directors who will best tell the character's stories. When it comes to female characters then that means letting women tell their stories.

Why I am deleting facebook.com today

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Section Editor

Yes, the rumors are true. I am deeply saddened to announce that I will be leaving facebook.com today, never to return. I'm sure this will come as a shock to some of my more loyal fans, but enough is enough. Now, with everything going on, it seems pretty obvious why I would leave but for those of you living under a rock, allow me to explain. Mark Suckerberg is a criminal and I refuse to implicitly support his crime against, not just the United States, but the world as a whole. Honestly, I'm not sure where to begin, some of the egregious acts committed by Mr. Suckerberg and facebook.com are not actually crimes, but they are far from moral.

There are many reasons for my leaving, but there is one that pushed me over the edge into the dark depths of other, non-facebook.com, websites. It all comes down to one question I have for Dr. Suckerberg, whatever happened to the Graffiti Wall? As I'm sure all of you know, in 2007 facebook.com released an app entitled "Graffiti Wall," where you could draw pictures on your friends' walls. Facebook.com struck gold, and we spat in their face for it. We should all be ashamed. But especially you, Colin Hauck '20! I remember seeing all of you joining groups called "1000 strong to get rid of the Graffiti Wall" or "50000 against the Graffiti Wall," well I hope it was worth it because on April 26th 2008 they took it away, and the world wept.

Immediately after seeing this, I pushed my 5th grade teacher in to the largest trash can I could find as he attempted to console me and then I ran straight home. After taking a few days to heal and trying to remember who I was before the Graffiti Wall, I decided to take action. I created a group entitled "300 united to bring back the Graffiti Wall." Today, the 10th anniversary of when the Graffiti Wall was sent to heaven, the group finally filled up. I want to give big ups to my main man Crab Arnold D.D.S. for finally getting us there, if you ever need teeth for anything please use my boy Crab, he deserves the world for his help, I owe him everything.

When the group hit 300, I was brought to tears, I have never felt a joy so intense, and I am including my children's births. But to my great dismay, I found that Sir Suckerberg didn't bring back the Graffiti Wall. Guess what Mark, that's a crime!

To my great dismay, I found that Sir Suckerberg didn't bring back the Graffiti Wall. Guess what Mark, that's a crime!

The people have spoken and yet he remains silent. My entire point of view is shaken. What kind of world do we live in if facebook.com is not held accountable? Not a world I want to live in. It's really a shame that I must leave because I love all the data mining and invasive profiling that they've been doing, if I'm being honest that's what kept me with the 'book.com for all this time. But a man can only make excuses for so long. If you agree with me, please delete your facebook.com account and if you want to let me know it, I'll probably be hanging out with Crab, so you can just hit him up on facebook and he'll let me know.

[Correction: Apparently his name is Mark Zuckerberg and not Mark Suckerberg]

I got scratched by a ghost

By Ian Adler
Possession Survivor

Last Thursday, I woke up: kind of a weird start to the day for me, but even weirder was this burning sensation on my neck accompanied by two distinct scratch marks. Casually, I brushed it off, thinking that some sort of evil beast of the night must've gotten to me but vanished as dawn broke, just in the knick of time before any *real* damage could be done.

I went to class, then to lunch and continued carrying on with my day, the burning fading out of my mind. Then, I took a nap instead of studying — this was the first mistake of many. When I woke up, the burning was back, and worse than ever before.

"Maybe I scratched myself?" I said, so I checked my fingernails — round they were, with not a jagged edge in sight. "Maybe I live with a cat now?" But alas, not single non-human in the apartment. Or so I thought (kinda).

I started blazing my way through the internet, only to find three potential causes – a skin condition I've never heard of, scabies or demonic possession as retribution for my sins. With all the negative energy flowing around my aura as of late, I knew what it had to be — *demons* was a natural place to start.

Digging around through sites, I've uncovered just one small lick of the mystery. The signs all point to the haunting of my spirit by a highest level negative energy being, possibly casted on me by some sort of subtle-sorcerer. With an energy range of anywhere from a billion to infinity units, this would explain the sudden ability to cause burning in my neck *at will*. What other sort of being could have this magnitude of power? This ability to instill fear in its host? Spiritual researchers have verified the link between negative energy beings and mental and physical illnesses, problems digesting carb-heavy foods, an inability to operate motor vehicles and a well-developed interest in reality television, all of which I've experienced within the past 37 weeks. I strived on, looking for a fix.

I think the spirit caught the scent of my stress, accumulating in my energy points from my plethora of assignments, failing relationships and recent stressful bout with vegetarianism. Casted from the realm of the supernatural, it chose *me* as its host in my time of weakness, taking advantage and feeding off of all of my negative energy and turning into *black energy*, its driving life force.

Based on an available diagram, this being must've come from no less than the 4th region of hell, a realm so terrible, every being would obviously want to leave it. It uses the scratches on my body to manifest itself in form, channeling through me like I'm some sort of portal. Kind of a weird way to get around if you ask me but then again I'm confined to the 3 dimensions of this universe — I don't get to make the rules.

Kind of a weird way to get around if you ask me but then again, I'm confined to the 3 dimensions of this universe – I don't get to make the rules.

The key to combating supernatural interference is simple — stay hydrated, take your vitamins and attempt to create a line of communication with the supernatural world. You have to show it that you are the boss of your body, spirit and the bridge between the two. It also can't hurt to get help from external sources who are also in touch with the many realms of heaven and hell. I've been donating to spiritual research foundations all day to feed their support, yet they still suggest that the being is growing in energy by the minute. Strive on, we must.

Assessing athletics

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Athletics

In a little over 20 days, seniors will walk across a stage at graduation and leave Muhlenberg in pursuit of bigger and better opportunities.

Like these students, athletic director Corey Goff will also start fresh, as he is headed to Florida in time to enjoy the warmer weather, moving to the Ransom Everglades School, a college preparatory school in Miami.

The state of Muhlenberg athletics at the time of Goff's departure is difficult to pinpoint. Since fall 2016, six head coaches have either left or retired from coaching the Mules; sometimes, in those cases, assistant coaches follow suit, which has led to gaps not only in coaching but in aspects of the Athletic Department itself. Other coaches remain devoted to the Allentown liberal arts school, such as Ron Rohn, the women's basketball coach, and Brad Hackett, the head coach of track & field.

Additionally, combining each varsity team's recent complete season, Muhlenberg athletics has an overall record of 134-119-7; this only includes sports with a clear win or loss and not place finishes. While it is a winning record, 46 wins — or over a third of the win column — came from volleyball and women's basketball, two of the most prolific and successful programs on campus.

Many of the other sports in this season and past seasons teeter at either the .500 mark or below. Additionally, the availability for athletic opportunity outside of varsity sports has diminished in recent years. Whatever the reason for the lack of success across the board — be it a difficult conference, inconsistent coaching or lack of support from athletics administration — some sports may benefit from a change of pace.

However, to make it seem like Muhlenberg athletics is in shambles isn't fair to the accomplishments of the athletes. In that same period of time, the women's basketball team won the Centennial Conference championship three years in a row. Women's lacrosse beat eventual national champion Gettysburg.

The men's cross country, men's track & field, field hockey, football and women's basketball teams featured players with All-American honors. Men's lacrosse, having it's best season in a decade, broke the school record for goals in a season and tied the record for wins in a season — finishing over .500 for the first time since the 2008 season.

However, it is difficult to imagine Muhlenberg athletics without Goff at the helm as he's served the last six of his 18-year tenure as the executive director of athletics and recreation. Looking forward, though, Goff believes what sets Muhlenberg apart from similar schools is exactly what will attract candidates dedicated to both athletics and the school community.

"Muhlenberg is true to its residential liberal arts values yet we possess an academic agility that is not typically characteristic of a highly selective arts college," said Goff. "How many small liberal arts colleges in the country have a neuroscience program that compares to ours? How many can virtually guarantee an aspiring accounting major employment at a big four firm if they maintain a 3.4 or better? How many do all of the above? Only one."

For Megan Patruno, the associate athletic director, what she wants the new athletic director to bring to Muhlenberg is someone who also recognizes "the strong culture of mutual respect, engagement and academic and athletic success" but will think of ways to continue and grow that culture.

In an attempt to keep the culture Patruno was discussing alive, those involved in the search and hiring process have tried to involve both coach and student-athlete input. Several student athletes were invited to serve on the committee and all head coaches have been involved throughout the process. Sean Topping, the men's soccer coach, is the coach tasked with representing the department as a member of the search committee. For a candidate, the process itself includes, but is not limited to, an interview with the president, an interview with athletic administration and a presentation and Q&A for student athletes that any athlete could attend.

The Muhlenberg Weekly received no responses to a request for comment sent to all head coaches in the athletics department about what they would like to see from the new athletic director.

Goff's decision to leave Muhlenberg was made public on Mar. 1; there is no word yet as to when a new athletic director will be announced as, for now, the hiring process is still ongoing.

"There will be lots of things to learn that could keep the new A.D. attached to their desk in the first few months," says Patruno in offering advice for the new director. "But I would strongly recommend that they get out and about on campus, have conversations with and get to know the wonderful people in our wonderful community."

Goff echoed a similar sentiment.

"Recognize and embrace the most important resource at your disposal, the people. You will be surrounded by fantastic people who want to see you succeed," said Goff. "We have an experienced staff of professionals in our department and we have great partners across campus how will help any way they can to move Muhlenberg forward."

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Lax legacy secure, a senior looks ahead

Jordy Bonvini '18 writes the final chapter of an outstanding Muhlenberg career

By Steven Shoemaker
Staff Writer

Jordy Bonvini '18 has been a star on the women's lacrosse team for the past four years, and her recent accomplishments prove why she is already one of the best lacrosse players Muhlenberg has ever seen.

Specifically, Bonvini managed to score her 150th career goal in recent conference play against Swarthmore. This season she was also able to get her 300th career draw control (faceoff win) and is just one point shy of achieving 200 career points. In the Centennial Conference, Bonvini is in the top 10 in goals scored (38), scoring in all 12 games this season. With just three games remaining in her Muhlenberg career, the 6-6 Mules try to finish the season above 500. "Winning the last 3 games of the season and making the playoffs is very important to me," said Bonvini. All of the senior midfielder's accomplishments this season have been very meaningful, but they will not be as meaningful if the Mules fall short of reaching the postseason.

Working together, winning, and teaching the younger players are important aspects of the team's success. A lot of the younger women have stepped up in big ways to fill the positions that past strong players have played. Losing seniors in the past has definitely left an impact on the team, which is something that will be very noticeable next season when Bonvini, Eliza Clark '18, Kailey Fandl '18 and Olivia Nacheff '18 are all absent.

On Senior Day, Muhlenberg was able to beat McDaniel 15-6.

"I am going to remember this win, along with many others, for a long time," said Bonvini.

One of the other major wins that Bonvini is referring to came last year when she scored 4 goals against the national champion, Gettysburg Bullets. Another reason why last season was so meaningful for Bonvini was because she managed to become the first Women's Lacrosse player in Muhlenberg history to be named an All-American.

Bonvini has without a doubt left her legacy on Muhlenberg athletics. It is not just about all of her accomplishments, but also all that she does for her team as a captain and leader. "Before my Muhlenberg career comes to an end, my number one goal is to make sure that the team succeeds in the future," stated Bonvini. She hopes to play in the All-Star game this year, as she was nominated by head coach, Kristen Stuckel. For the season, Bonvini leads the team this year in goals (41), shots on goal (85), points (52), and draw controls (80).

When her career does come to an unfortunate end Bonvini can look back in the Muhlenberg record books and see part of that legacy as well. Bonvini is currently 5th in career goals (150), 8th in points (199), 5th most points in a game (10, 2017), 6th most points in a single season (78, 2017) and has racked up 27 career hat tricks.

Bonvini plans on sticking with lacrosse, as she has had a part-time coaching job during the summer. Impressively, two teams in Europe reached out to Bonvini to play, but she already has a job and future plans lined up.

With two games left to play, Bonvini, along with the rest of the women's lacrosse program aims to end their season on a strong note in two final games (in which Bonvini could potentially sneak a few places up the leaderboards) against Centennial Conference rivals Ursinus and Franklin & Marshall.

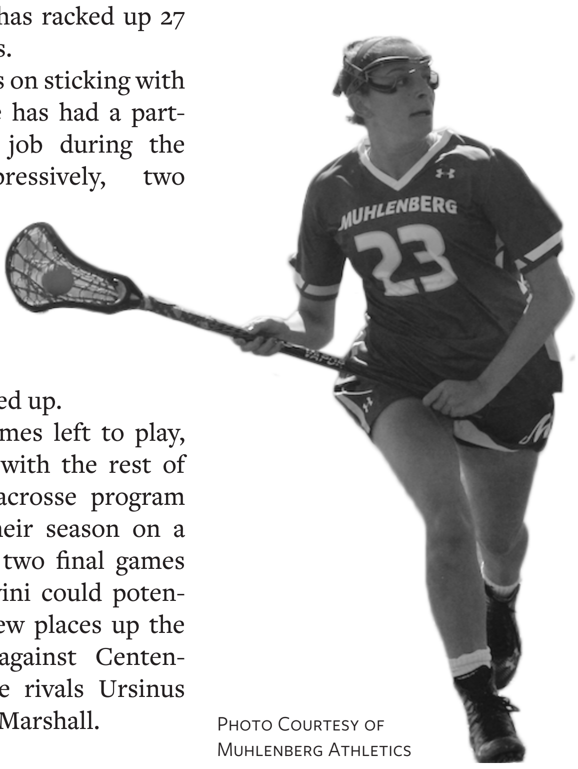


Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

from **Havkins** page 12

Havkins explained that he felt the monstrous throw coming from within in the few throws prior to the record-tying heave. "When I threw 163 feet during my 4th round of throws last week at Moravian College, I knew that was the day. As I was preparing to throw, I noticed that a lot of my teammates on the team all came over to support me-that confidence allowed me to throw with everything I had in me. After I threw the disc, I heard the official read the mark of 164 feet and 2 inches."

Havkins' reaction: priceless. "I ran towards my throws coach and gave him a huge hug as I had just tied one of the oldest school records in Muhlenberg track and field," he said.

"That throw placed me at #6 in the United States for Division III this season, in which the top 20 best marks by the end of the regular season go to the National Championships in La Crosse, Wisconsin," explained Havkins. "My next biggest goals that I plan on accomplishing are to shatter the school record, win the Centennial Conference Championship the second year in a row and finish as an All-American at the National Championships by finishing in the top eight — something I have dreamed about ever since I began throwing at the age of 12."

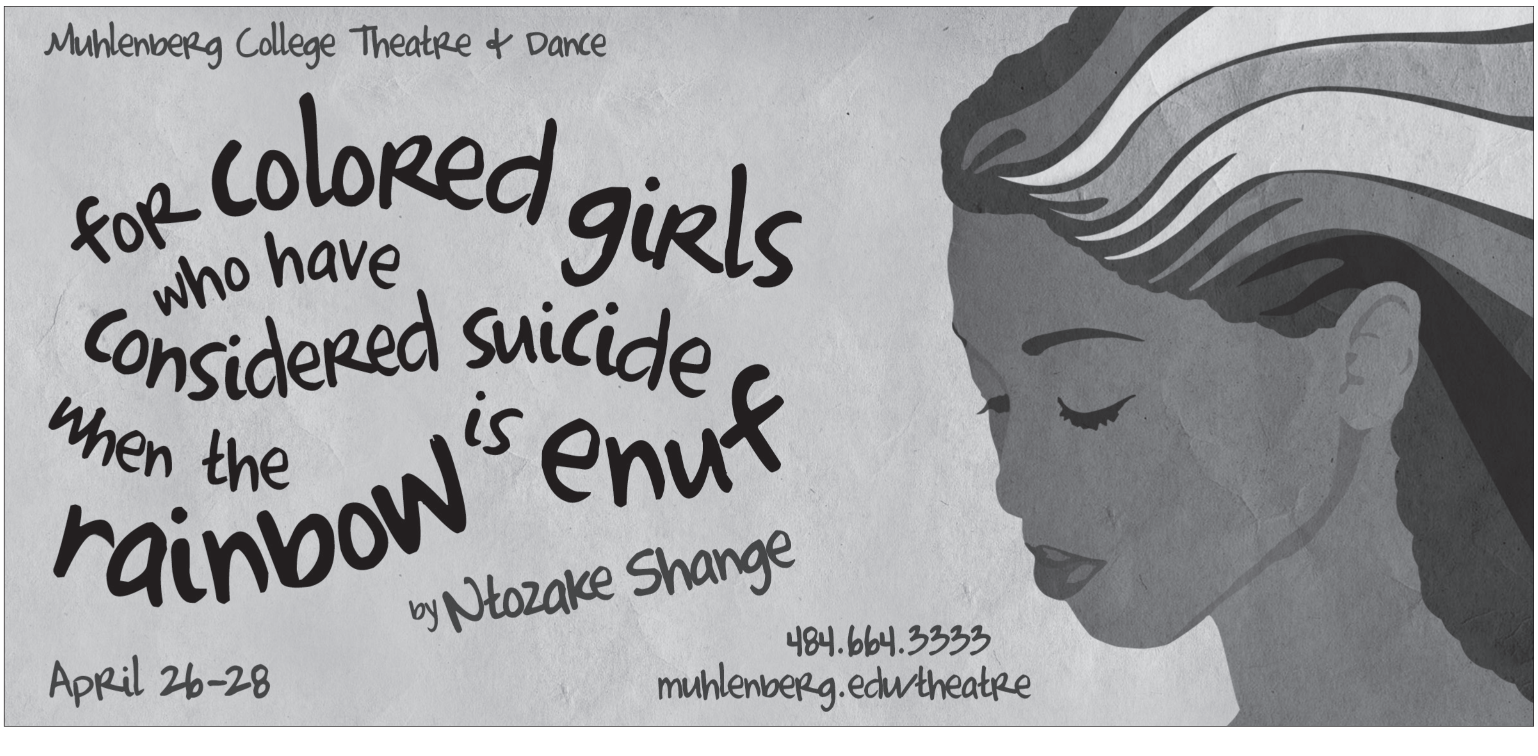
The remarkable level of throwing success displayed by Havkins was rewarded with two Centennial Conference Player of the Week awards in the 2018 spring season. Although this is technically an individual accomplishment for Havkins, he views the award as a trophy for the entire track & field program.

> **"...if that understanding is the only thing I take away from the sport after 10 years, then I'd call my career a great success"**

"I've been very fortunate over my career at Muhlenberg to earn Centennial Conference Athlete Of The Week 6 times-2 of which in the past 3 weeks," says Havkins. "Even though it is a huge honor to be recognized for my continued success throughout the season, I think of it more as a reflection of the Muhlenberg Track and Field program. When looking at all of what goes into my performances, I think about the teammates that push me every day on the field and in the weight room, experienced coaching staff that critique my technique and further develop me character me and, of course, the Muhlenberg community at large that reaches out to me after my meets congratulating me on my performances, consequently encouraging me to work even harder. Muhlenberg says it best-22 sports, 1 team. The success of athletes and teams is a reflection of the program at large."

Although Havkins is venturing into the next chapter of his life and athletic career, his presence will no doubt be missed on the team next season. However, he strongly believes that he has made the most of his time at Muhlenberg, both in the classroom, on the field, and on the track. Havkins is proud of not only his only achievements as a Mule student-athlete, but he is incredibly proud of his many teammates as well. Throughout this time at Muhlenberg, Havkins has truly enjoyed his moments and is thankful for all who have helped him get to where he is at today.

"I've been competing in track and field for 10 years and have had a lot of ups and downs along the way. Even though I'll definitely miss training with amazing athletes and coaches, I know that this is definitely not the end of the road," says Havkins. "Since I truly love the sport and have so much fun competing with my teammates, it has yet to hit me that in a few short weeks I will no longer be a collegiate athlete. Until then, I will take advantage of every meet and give it everything I have. Along the way, I have and will continue to recognize that it will take sacrifice, perseverance and hard work to accomplish all that I plan on doing. The coaching staff, led by Head Coach Brad Hackett, has done a phenomenal job of helping transform me into confident, influential leader on the team in which I can help motivate others just as they have motivated me. I've come to the realization that as much as I enjoy throwing far, the sport itself is really just a metaphor for overcoming obstacles and achieving goals against great odds. And if that understanding is the only thing I take away from the sport after 10 years, then I'd call my career a great success."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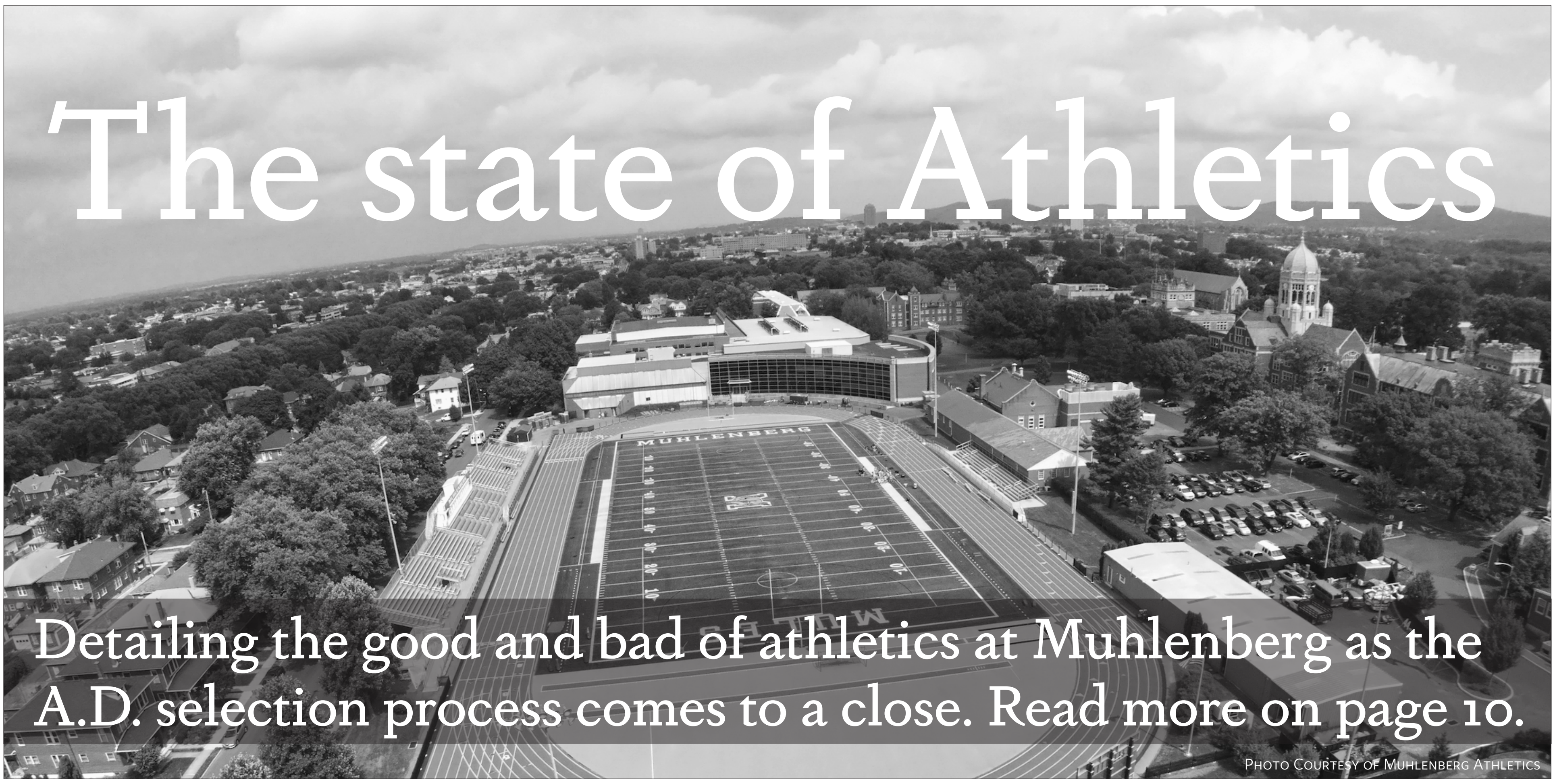
THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS



The state of Athletics

Detailing the good and bad of athletics at Muhlenberg as the A.D. selection process comes to a close. Read more on page 10.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Tennis coach departs

Bruce Levine leaves Muhlenberg for undisclosed reasons

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

The Muhlenberg College men's and women's tennis teams are now playing under interim head coach Angela Jones, effective since sometime this spring semester.

Jones brings a wealth of tennis knowledge and skill to the temporary position, including playing college tennis herself for a Division I program out of St. Peter's College.

Jones not only founded and serves as head coach of her own 10-and-under tennis program, but was also the competitive player development manager and early childhood development tennis camp director at Centercourt Athletic Club, where she led one of the most successful 10-and-under programs in the country, according the the athletic website.

Jones took over as head coach for Bruce Levine. Levine was named head coach of both the men's and women's tennis programs in the 2016-17 season after former men's coach Jeff Schmitt and former women's coach Linda Andrews retired from Muhlenberg.

Levine was at Muhlenberg for less than two seasons before his exit. While it is unclear what prompted the head coach's departure, no announcement about either Levine leaving Muhlenberg or Jones' hiring were made publicly — unlike with the departure or introduction of other members of the coaching staff.

The Muhlenberg Weekly requested comment from both the men's and women's tennis teams; members from both teams declined to comment.

In an official statement to The Weekly, Corey Goff, the Director of Athletics, said, "Coach Levine resigned."

It is unclear as of now whether or not Jones will remain the head coach for next season or if there is an ongoing search for a permanent head coach.

Havkins heaves his name into the record books

By Alex Horowitz
Senior Staff Writer

It has been a phenomenal final campaign for Michael Havkins '18, a thrower on the men's track & field team. However, the senior doesn't consider his time launching discuses to end upon his graduation from Muhlenberg next month. He plans to continue perfecting his craft in a pursuit of qualifying for national competition. The 2-time Centennial Conference Player of the Week award winner will also take up a business job in sunny Florida, which gives him the perfect atmosphere to continue throwing.

"Upon graduation, I will be working for The Kraft Heinz Company in Florida where I will be doing Business Development — something I've always been so excited about," said Havkins. "Since I'll be in a warm environment and the apartment that I will be living in has a 24/7 access fitness complex and weight room just steps away from my front door, I definitely plan on continuing to throw as an unattached athlete in as many meets as possible as I will continue to set bigger goals for myself."

Havkins also mentioned how he will continue to take advantage of a Muhlenberg resource which he became close with during his four years throwing in Allentown. "My throws coach, Andy Fahringer, will keep writing workouts for me as I have a long-term goal of qualifying for the United States National Championships in the years to come — a goal that is definitely achievable."

"Additionally, I plan on volunteering as a throws coach at a local high school or college where I can train student-athletes and inspire them on and off the field just as much as my coaches have done for me," said Havkins. "At the end of the day, track and field has provided me with so many wonderful opportunities throughout my life and I am not ready to give that up."

His determination to continue in the track & field world does not come as a surprise. This season, Havkins tied the Muhlenberg school record for the longest discus throw at the mark of 164 feet and 2 inches. Always one to put in maximum effort, Havkins was ecstatic upon finally reaching this mark that he calls a "lifelong goal."

"My biggest accomplishment of the season is something that hasn't been done in 42 years- tying the Muhlenberg discus record of 164 feet and 2 inches," the senior from Manalapan, NJ says. "As this number has been on a sheet of paper above my bed since the first week of my freshman year, I knew that there was a very good reason why it has been for 4 decades-because it required a thrower to commit hours and hours to working on technique and studying the art of throwing."

see **Havkins** page 10

Coming up this week in
SPORTS
Weekend Edition

Softball
Muhlenberg vs *Washington College*
Friday, Apr. 27 @ 2:00 & 4:00 pm
Cedarcreek Field

Men's and Women's Golf
Centennial Conference Championships
Friday, Apr. 27
Brookside Country Club

Track & Field
Lehigh Games
Saturday, Apr. 28
Bethlehem, PA

Men's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg vs *Franklin & Marshall*
Saturday, Apr. 28 @ 12:00 pm
Scotty Wood Stadium

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

Senior sendoffs:

Graduating seniors say "goodbye"

read more on 8/9

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NEWS

With the website redesign officially underway, Executive Director of Communications Bill Keller gives a walkthrough of the process and the goals of the project.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

Susanna Birnbaum examines Asian American representation on campus and throughout America at the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month event.

read more on 7

OP/ED

Taking a moment to look both backwards and forwards, The Editorial Board reflects on its successes this year and the uncertainty of the future.

read more on 8

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG ATHLETICS

SPORTS

Coming off a bowl game victory in the fall, first year head coach Nate Milne announces the three captains for the upcoming season.

read more on 12

the rainbow is enuf

for colored girls... revolutionizes theatre at Muhlenberg

Read more on page 6

Lost in translation?

Faculty and students weigh in on the question, "should 'Berg add English as a Second Language (ESL) courses?"

By Natasha Vargas
Contributing Writer

The number of international students at Muhlenberg College has grown at an average rate of 131.4 percent each year over the past five years. This exponential increase has left professors and tutors wondering who is responsible for teaching English at Muhlenberg?

English Language Learner (ELL) students often have a clear understanding of the course material, but struggle to communicate their ideas fluently in English. And while native English speakers are offered grammar, listening and speech classes when taking semesters abroad, Muhlenberg does not offer equivalent English language immersion classes for international students. This is particularly shocking given the fact that most of the international students who come to Muhlenberg enroll for a full four years. Since it is necessary to have near native fluency in English to perform well in classes taught in English, it would make sense to hire at least one full-time English Language professor. But hiring a full time professor is expensive, and the proficient scores of Muhlenberg's ELL students make hiring another professor seem frivolous.

Memorizing grammar rules and syntax might guarantee a good test score, but it does not guarantee a good writer.

Before they are accepted at Muhlenberg, international students are required to prove their English proficiency by submitting their test scores from the TOEFL, IELTS or SAT Verbal exams. But some students learn how to "beat the test" rather than master its content. In situations like these, high scores don't reflect a student's actual level of comprehension. Memorizing grammar rules and syntax might guarantee a good test score, but it does not guarantee a good writer.

"We've considered the question of whether or not to offer a [language] course either preliminary or along with the FYS," said David Rosenwasser, who as a co-director of the Writing Center, is a key figure in the effort to assist ELL students, "but at this point we're not going that route." Rosenwasser cited several concerns about such a program, such as where it would be housed and how it would fit into the requirement structure. Rosenwasser then referenced American education scholar Mike Rose who argues that remedial courses separate one part of the population and suggest that an individual can't have ideas until he or she knows how to abide by the grammar and punctuation conventions of the language. Rosenwasser asserted that at

see **English** page 3

Integrated progress

An update on the new academic requirement

By Chloe Gravereaux
Asst. Managing Editor

This fall, Muhlenberg will be offering 11 courses that fulfill the new Integrative Learning (IL) General Academic Requirement (GAR) that was announced last November.

Integrated Learning is a designation given to select courses that study a single topic through multiple lenses. The IL designation was given to seven courses this spring, and IL courses replace Cluster requirements for the Class of 2021 onward. Cluster courses were the College's recent attempt at teaching interdisciplinary thinking, where sophomores selected a set of two pre-scheduled courses that covered the same topic from two different angles.

Despite the shift away from clusters, they are committed to the idea of the Integrative learning. The College has received recognition for its efforts, says Provost Kathy Harring.

"We participated in a higher education institute on integrative learning in July 2017 in Chicago, and received a lot of very positive feedback about the work that we are doing at the College to support students' skills." said Harring. "In addition, another team of faculty presented our integrative learning at a conference in July with standing room only."

Additionally, said Harring, other colleges have been reaching out to 'Berg on the subject.

"When your peers are asking you for advice, it's really gratifying," Harring said. "It really is a testament to Muhlenberg faculty and their innovation in curriculum development."

An article in the Association of American Colleges and Universities Peer Review argues "that in most arenas outside the academy--from the workplace to scientific discovery to medicine to world and national affairs--multilayered, unscripted problems routinely require an inte-

see **Integrate** page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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CORRECTION POLICY

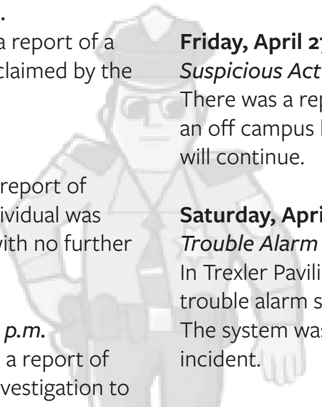
The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety



Monday, April 23
Fire Alarm Sounding — 12:46 p.m.
At 2245 Gordon Street there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to cooking. The system was silenced and reset without further incident.

Sick Student — 5:57 p.m.
In the Life Sports Center there was a report of a sick student, who refused further treatment or transport.

Tuesday, April 24
Found Property — 3:02 a.m.
In Seegers Union there was a report of a found laptop that was later claimed by the owner.

Trespass — 10:00 a.m.
In Parents Plaza there was a report of a suspicious person. The individual was identified and left the area with no further incident.

Suspicious Activity — 12:00 p.m.
At faculty housing there was a report of suspicious activity with an investigation to continue.

Fire Alarm Sounding — 11:16 p.m.
In Martin Luther Hall, third floor, there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset without further incident.

Wednesday, April 25
Harassment — 8:35 a.m.
In the Village there was a report of harassment by communication, an investigation is to continue.

Sick Student — 5:33 p.m.
In Seegers Union there was a report of a sick student. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and the student refused further treatment or transport.

Thursday, April 26
Traffic Accident — 6:40 p.m.
On Leh Street there was a report of a minor motor vehicle accident involving a Muhlenberg College vehicle. The individuals were identified and there was no further incident.

Fire Alarm Sounding — 9:47 p.m.
At 2201 Chew Street there was a report of a fire alarm sounding due to steam from a shower. The system was silenced and reset without further incident.

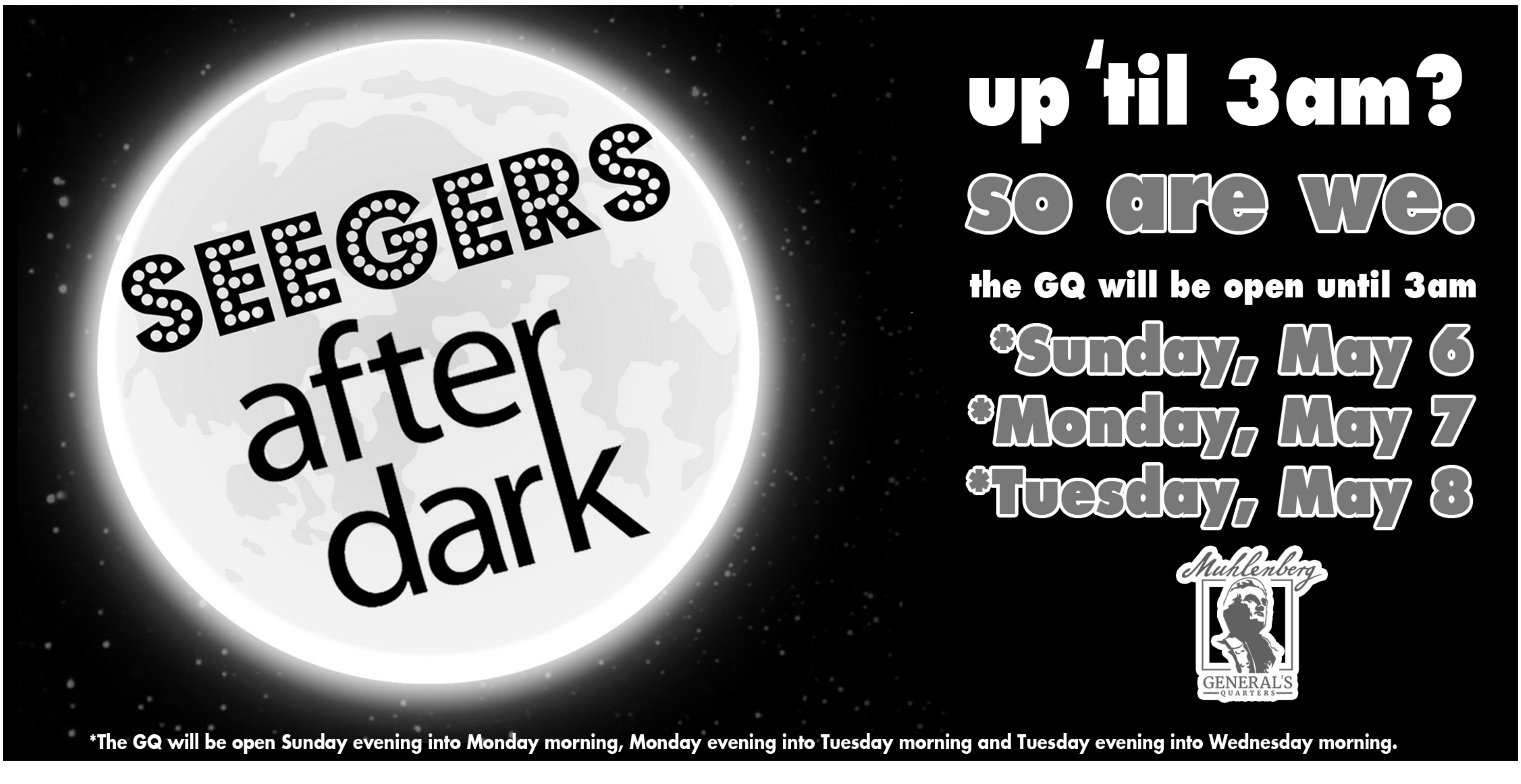
Friday, April 27
Suspicious Activity — 12:25 p.m.
There was a report of suspicious activity at an off campus location and an investigation will continue.

Saturday, April 28
Trouble Alarm Sounding — 1:16 a.m.
In Trexler Pavilion there was a report of a trouble alarm sounding from a fire system. The system was silenced with no further incident.

Injured Visitor — 7:30 p.m.
In Seegers Union there was a report of an injured visitor. The individual was transported to the hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Suspicious Person — 10:50 p.m.
In East Hall there was a report of suspicious individuals. The area was checked and the individuals could not be located.

Sunday, April 29
Alcohol Violation — 1:22 a.m.
In Prosser Hall there was a report of underage possession and consumption. The individuals were identified and spoken to. The alcohol was disposed of with no further incident.



up 'til 3am?
so are we.
the GQ will be open until 3am
*Sunday, May 6
*Monday, May 7
*Tuesday, May 8

*The GQ will be open Sunday evening into Monday morning, Monday evening into Tuesday morning and Tuesday evening into Wednesday morning.

How much is too much?

Looking at the science behind being stressed out

By Emma Newman
Contributing Writer

Stress is a tricky emotion to feel. We often hear that stress can be controlled in a helpful way. You know the saying, “Not all stress is bad stress.” But, more often than not, stress just feels beyond our control. It can make work harder and less bearable in the moment and we start to shut down mentally whether or not we like it. It’s a snowball of stress which leads to not getting stuff done which then adds more stress to your original stress. What if we learned about stress, not from an emotional perspective, but from a neuroscientist’s perspective to get down to the nitty gritty of stress itself? Would that help us to understand our bodies’ reactions in a more logical way and utilize our ability to control the seemingly uncontrollable?

I interviewed Dr. Gretchen Gotthard, associate professor of neuroscience and psychology at Muhlenberg and a behavioral neuroscientist who studies memory, amnesia and learning, to delve deeper into the topic of stress to see if maybe stress can be controlled in a more logical sense, as opposed to working from an emotional stance.

“Two systems work together to produce our responses to stress,” says Gotthard. “The sympathetic nervous system (SNS) and the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis.” The SNS would be the first line of attack in response to the stressful situation and the body releases epinephrine (adrenaline) and norepinephrine (noradrenaline). These two chemicals come from the adrenal glands that are basically part of the fight or flight response. These chemicals act as a quick response system and provide you with a boost of energy, so if you were to be in a situation where your friend jumps out at you all of a sudden your body would either run away from or fight the friend who has scared you. The second system, the HPA, is the prolonged response to the stressor that releases glucocorticoids, of which cortisol is one example. As you can tell, there is a natural response to stress that happens in your brain with not one, but two different lines of attack, to help you deal with the stress.

Now we know how the brain, on a logical level, deals with the stressful situations that come into its life, but how does stress affect learning and memory? There are a few things to consider when talking about learning and memory, such as how our how different levels of stress can either enhance our ability to recall information or inhibit it. “The SNS and HPA axis affect memory directly and indirectly via a structure in the brain called the basolateral amygdala” explains Gotthard. This allows us to understand the higher function of how this memory consolidation works instead of just acknowledging that it happens. “In the short-term, stress enhances consolidation of memory, especially for emotional information,” says Gotthard. “In fact, acute stress can actually enhance neural growth.”

So, stress can actually help us to remember important information in the short-term, which could be very useful for tests and work that requires relatively quick recall. If you’re anything like me, testing is difficult, so any extra help — and information that I can apply — is useful. Significant information is easier to recall than mundane information.

What’s extremely interesting, though, is that stress, although effective for recalling information, can also impair the brain’s ability to retrieve information. There’s a certain point in which the degree of stress outweighs the amount of stress you need in order for it to be considered beneficial and to be able to utilize it. One of the scarier long-term effects of chronic stress is that “the hippocampus, a brain structure critical for the organization of personal event memories [i.e., episodic memories] is damaged by prolonged exposure to cortisol” according to Gotthard. If you let stress get to the point where it inhibits your ability to function, it’s not just detrimental on an emotional and a physical level, but you actually could be damaging your brain. There is some good news: there are ways to deal with and alleviate chronic stress that impedes your ability to think clearly and function well. For starters, you can deal with the problem head on, whether it’s a stressor that has to do with a major life event or a pile-up of homework, and just get the work done and deal with the life stressor. Other ways include eating healthfully, sleeping well (which I know is hard for the majority of students), practicing breathing-focused meditation and getting regular exercise.

Gotthard believes it to be important to note, as do I, that “all individuals experience stress in their lives, [it’s] a key feature in motivating us to achieve. It is not until stress becomes excessive that is becomes problematic.” I think herein lies the issue with stress these days. We let it build to the point at which it becomes debilitating. We don’t learn to manage our stress or figure out how to let the stress motivate us to succeed, but instead allow it to break us down and make us feel as though nothing will get accomplished. Yet, when used correctly, stress can help us achieve so much more than we know. Remember, too, that talking with people you trust implicitly can be a great way to alleviate and help us manage stress.

FROM **ENGLISH** PAGE 1

Muhlenberg “we don’t want an ELL structure that works like that.”

`The core lesson of the workshop was that tutors should give ELL students a chance to answer their own questions and correct mistakes. To do this a tutor should elicit knowledge from the student to discover how much he or she already knows about the language. Tomaskovic-Moore also recommended that tutors get students to notice the gap between their actual ideas and what’s being communicated on the page so that they can work together to find the best way to express what the student wants to say. If these tactics should fail, Tomaskovic-Moore maintained that it is okay to show students how to do the work until they can do it on their own.

According to Thomas Janis, Muhlenberg’s director of international student support, it would be ideal to see “stronger students in a smaller number” coming to Muhlenberg. By ‘stronger’ Janis did not mean ‘smarter,’ but rather, better suited to Muhlenberg. He asserted that some students are surprised by Muhlenberg’s academic rigor and he claimed that mastering English is not always high on their list of academic goals. Consequently, Janis is not sure if an English language program would be particularly attractive to international students. After all, “many of these students come to the US hoping to receive a holistic experience of the American culture,” and to gain “marketable insight[s]” - not to learn English. He argued that if Muhlenberg selectively recruited international students looking to master English, establishing a formal ELL program would make more sense.

Yuqian He, an international student from China, was asked if she would be interested in an English language class and she responded with a resounding “No, definitely not!” and insisted that most international students at Muhlenberg would respond the same way. Although she appreciates that the one-on-one tutoring sessions help her refine the papers she must submit, she claimed that learning English is not one of her primary academic interests.

Establishing an ELL program might not be the right move for Muhlenberg right now. But, if Muhlenberg starts recruiting more international students that are interested in mastering English, it would help if the College already had a formalized ELL program in place.

A whole new web

Process begins for 2019 launch of redesigned college website

By Sydney Coplin
Asst. News Editor

On Feb. 26, 2018, President Williams sent out an email to students, faculty and staff announcing that a major redesign of the Muhlenberg College website was set to go live in early 2019.

The most recent update to the process — the indication that the project was officially underway — was posted on the official blog for the redesign on Apr. 11.

“The Muhlenberg website dates back to at least the mid 1990’s — perhaps earlier. Over the years the site has undergone many design changes,” explained Bill Keller, executive director of communications. “Our most recent major change took place in 2016 and featured some welcome updates, like a focus on larger images and a mobile-responsive design.”

The decision to enhance the website since its last redesign was a collaborative effort between the president’s office, admissions, information technology, advancement and communications, just to name a few.

While the actual website redesign was a more recent commitment. “Parts of this process started well before we decided to embark on a web design process. Our communications strategy, for example, has been in place for nearly two years,” said Keller.

One of the major components of the decision-making process was choosing a design partner — which led to the partnership with FastSpot.

FastSpot is an award-winning design firm that has worked with an abundance of other collegiate institutions.

“FastSpot also has an excellent track record of assuring that websites meet the needs of users with disabilities, which is important to us,” noted President Williams in his initial email.

As for specific details about the expectations for the new website, there is not a lot to share yet; however, there are certain goals that have been set.

“We can say that we’re approaching our new website with the intent of making the sense of community, academics, social life and space more transparent for visitors,” said Keller. “We’re also expecting to fully utilized compelling photographs, video, social media and storytelling using the framework and design of the new site.”

The target audience for the website will continue to be prospective students and their families.

While the website may be attracting the eyes of incoming Muhlenberg students, members of the college community that are already here definitely are being valued in the process as well. It is for that reason that the redesign team decided to launch the blog that will keep everybody in the loop on the progress.

“We’re committed to keeping our community informed and involved,” said Keller.

“We’re planning to host several sessions to share progress and to solicit feedback from our community,” Keller also added, “We have a lot of work to do before FastSpot can work with us to share design concepts, but students will have opportunities to participate in those listening sessions.”

Why Muhlenberg history matters to me

(and why it should matter to you)

By Karl Schutz
Senior Staff Writer

The few of you who follow my stories closely likely know that I am lucky enough to have worked in the Special Collections department of the Trexler Library for a majority of my time at Muhlenberg. This, sadly, is an experience only a select few (usually only one or two per year) experience. However, it has given me the tools to fall in love with Muhlenberg College.

I have written at length about different aspects of Muhlenberg's history, from its advent up to recent building renovations and guest speakers. I sometimes spend hours pouring through the digitized Weeklys or other records trying to find relatable and timely content. But through my research, I have gone on countless tangents and read articles not directly pertinent to my own, but still offering me insight into Muhlenberg's past; and in doing so, my own. If you are reading this you are likely a Muhlenberg student, and are therefore a part of over a century and a half of men and women who came before you. I didn't really appreciate this idea until my time as a Muhlenberg student was ending and my time as an alumnus was on the horizon. This invisible and seemingly intangible connection to each other is why Muhlenberg history should be so important to all of us. When I talk about Muhlenberg history, I certainly do not mean its more tedious history of its founding, other concrete facts, or even famous alumni, but instead I talk about the stories of Muhlenberg students' past. Their stories from their time at Muhlenberg, no matter how inconsequential and average, are what I value most when approaching an article or my job. The ability to connect with alumni old and new; whether through stories of Haps Benfer and Oscar Bernheim or lamenting over East's uneven floors with people that graduated just a few years ago, is the gift that Muhlenberg's intimate environment offers.

This personal history is why you should concern yourself with Muhlenberg's past, both the good and the bad. Though you might not believe so, Muhlenberg has constantly been growing and ever improving towards its goal of a "greater Muhlenberg" as mentioned in the recent Master Plan unveiled by President Williams. The bumps along the way, whether the rough transition to coeducation, certain firings of faculty, even to the unease involving protests and student voices while I've been here, are equally as important to the great improvements the college has made. Looking back and seeing a Muhlenberg I wouldn't love gives me all the more reason to love the current day's. Even if you don't mirror my feelings and dislike this institution on its fundamental principles or its day-to-day functions, you are still a part of Muhlenberg counter-culture that has persisted throughout its years. Muhlenberg has seen students protesting coeducation, rallying for the removal of Muhlenberg's past presidents and even recent opposition to the increased rate of tuition. This shows that even if you don't love Muhlenberg's history, you are still a part of it.

Muhlenberg

Photo courtesy of Muhlenberg College Archives

In this photo taken over one hundred years ago, five friends enjoy an impromptu jam session in East (then Berks Hall).

I know my sentiments here will not be shared by all, or even any, but I invite anyone reading this to think about who built their experience at Muhlenberg. Who founded your clubs or fraternities, who paved the way for you to be here, who has sat in your same classrooms even 100 years ago? Their experience at Muhlenberg would be far different from yours, but it will be much more similar than you'd imagine. Students still hung out in dorms like East and lied to themselves that they'd study, they still went to Seegers (or depending how far back — Walson) to eat lunch with friends and they still went to class in the identical building and learned nearly identical things.

So why does Muhlenberg's history matter? Because it is your story, it is my story, and it is the stories of all the men and women that came before us, either one year or one hundred years ago.

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from **Integrate** page 1

grative approach."

Dr. Kimberly Heiman, a co-coordinator of integrative learning at the College, noted in a previous interview with The Weekly that employers look for interdisciplinary problem-solving in potential employees. This kind of interdisciplinary thinking can even help solve larger problems.

"If you look at the problems that are facing society and the environment and the world today, not a single one of them is solvable from a single disciplinary perspective," said Heiman, "Take global climate change, for example. There's a scientific/ecological component to that, but there's also a socio-economic component to that, there's a political component to that, etc. There's no way to solve that problem from just one disciplinary perspective."

Of the six members of Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC), Muhlenberg is the only to house integrative learning as an academic designation of that name. Lehigh University does offer a program integrating academic and experiential learning, but the application is not cross-curricular. Students, instead, apply their learning outside the classroom.

The College is working on helping faculty develop IL designated courses with a workshop scheduled later this month and the hope of bringing more ILs to the coursebook.

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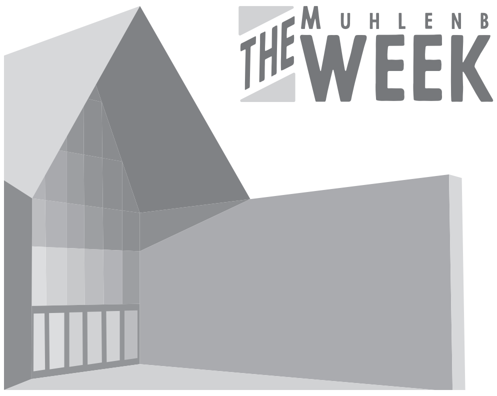


THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

/ARTS & CULTURE

“We die. That may be the meaning of life. But we do language. That may be the measure of our lives.”

- Toni Morrison

Give a hand for Big Band!

Jazz Big Band rocks the Empie stage with classics and surprises alike

By Melissa Reph
News Editor

Entertaining. That’s really the only way to describe the Jazz Big Band concert on Friday night — something trombonist Emily Robinson ‘19 can attest to.

“This past semester was probably the most fun I’ve ever had in an ensemble,” said Robinson, “and I’ve been playing in band for probably ten years.”

“The band is better than it’s ever been. We’ve had some phenomenal players come through the band in my four years here, many of whom have either left Muhlenberg or graduated,” said saxophonist Johnny Tamburro ‘18, echoing Robinson. “However, this year we ended up with a perfect storm of leadership, with our director Tony Gairo expecting a lot from us. Each section leader really took their section to task and bringing the whole ensemble to a higher level of performance.”

Always a highlight of every semester, whispers from the band members began spreading early on this year about how this performance would be special. The hype did not disappoint.

> **“Each section leader really took their section to task and bringing the whole ensemble to a higher level of performance.”**

Like any good show, it started with a theme song. What better than kicking off with the theme from “Family Guy?” Similarly, the concert had its comedic highlights, with Gairo and band members swapping jokes throughout the night. Gairo even commented that the audience likely had not expected to be laughing so much at a jazz concert. The jokes lasted until the very end during the final song, “Tank!,” in which Tamburro passed the bari sax he was playing down the line of his fellow musicians to Zeke Timen ‘21 as the two switched instruments a few bars into the piece causing laughs of surprise from the crowd.

The music was just as impressive as the unexpected comedy. Playing songs made famous by Count Basie and Maynard Ferguson, as well as chart toppers like “Pennies From Heaven” and “Skyfall.”

“There were a few sections that were more tenuous than others, but everything came out pretty smoothly, so I can’t say I had a favorite part; [there were] certainly parts where I took a deep breath of relief afterwards though,” said Tamburro.

“We played ‘Don’t Let the Sun Go Down on Me’ by Elton John, but we played the Maynard Ferguson version,” Robinson said when asked about her favorite piece. “It was absolutely insane.”

> **“Our level of playing has really shot up, and everyone is pushing themselves to play the best they can.”**

A statement in itself as Rob Hartman ‘18 hit impossibly high notes seemingly with ease, truly earning the short break brought on by intermission following the number.

A couple members came together to form a septet for “Minga (Ode to Mingus)” which was written by Muhlenberg alumnus Michael Sarian and a trio with Bailey Fulginiti ‘18 on vocals. While not featured on every song, Fulginiti did wow the crowd with her voice, singing Nat King Cole and Adele with ease.

“The concert went really well. I had many moments that I wish were tighter on my part, however I think that feeling is mostly coming from how much we’ve improved over the last semester or two,” Tamburro said. “Our level of playing has really shot up, and everyone is pushing themselves to play the best they can.”

Robinson mentioned that a part of what made this semester for her was definitely the camaraderie felt between the whole band and how that translated into their playing.

“We sounded damn good this semester, that’s for sure,” Tamburro said. Now that’s something the audience would definitely agree with.

From minds, to scores, to the stage

Muhlenberg College performs student compositions

By Lauren Mazur
Arts & Culture Editor

For student musicians to perform student compositions, to allow for such an opportunity to experience and witness, is quite a feat in itself. Pieces ranging from folk-pop genres to smooth-Jazz quartets, neoclassical pieces that intend to emulate their predecessors to post-modern pieces that encourage the crowd to think beyond the performance before them—such genres and more were presented and performed for our ears to consume and process.

Certain pieces that caught my attention was a song cycle of three by Max Kasler ‘20 and Gwen Wilkie ‘20. The Cycle included “Free to Be Me,” “Home,” and “Unapologetically Me.”

“Gwen and Max gave me some creative control as far as coming up with my part,” described Ben Dawn-Cross ‘20, a drummer in the song cycle as well as other pieces throughout the concert’s repertoire.

“We’d all worked together in the same capacity during the Fundraiser Cabaret a few weeks ago, so it wasn’t a huge shift,” said Dawn-Cross. “Maybe because it was a student piece; that gave me much more liberty to interpret the song than if I was playing something in Wind Ensemble, where I have to play every note at exactly the right time.”

> **“I didn’t intend to strictly emulate 17th century practices, simply because I did not need to, and so I allowed my contemporary bias to influence the piece.”**

The pieces themselves varied in genre, some emphasizing vocal prowess while others emulated J. S. Bach variations. Counterpoint, a method of composition, was used in the piano piece by Dov Foger ‘18. For those who don’t know, counterpoint is a composition technique that applies to how two melodies interact with each other. For instance, in various Bach inventions, such as his first in C Major, each “voice” part (the melody presented) is equal. Here, there is no “main melody,” but rather an invention of the same one throughout the piece, varied and changed every time it is repeated.

“I performed a short piano composition that I worked on this semester,” Foger said. He had performed the piece himself on stage. “The initial ideas for the piece, to me, resembled elements of early counterpoint, and so I let the composition naturally develop with that style in mind. I didn’t intend to strictly emulate 17th century practices, simply because I did not need to, and so I allowed my contemporary bias to influence the piece.”

Foger did an amazing job emulating this practice (intentional or not), and his performance of said technique was just as remarkable.

Returning to the song cycle, I was able to ask on one of the composer’s thoughts regarding the piece as a whole:

“My compositions consisted of three songs from a Song Cycle I’m writing with Gwen Wilkie ’20 called Woven Stories,” said Max Kasler ‘20. “These songs were written for voice, piano, bass guitar and drum set. The Song Cycle deals with themes of love and how our human stories and experiences connect us all in the funny game we call life.”

Kasler thought of the experience of the concert itself was unusual in itself.

“It is so surreal seeing our compositions performed live! For the past four months, we’ve been locked in practice rooms plunking away at the out of tune pianos only dreaming about what a finished product could look like and I don’t think I’ve ever been happier!”

Honestly, seeing the piece in myself, it was an out-of-mind and out-of-body feeling. Kasler’s music reflected on one’s identity, whether it be the singer, the composer, the instrumentalist, or even the audience themselves. The performance was engaging in nature and was truly worth seeing.

Performers and composers, vocalists and instrumentalists, faculty and students, all come together for a performance of rare opportunity — it was amazing to be in the audience of such a spectacle.

for colored girls... revolutionizes 'Berg theatre

By Brooke Weber
Arts & Culture Editor

Photo Courtesy of Ken Ek

The cast of *for colored girls...* triumphantly circles the stage in a dance that celebrates their own black feminine subjectivity for all to see.

When the lights come down on *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*, the audience is already standing. They're standing and crying and whooping and clapping as if they'll never clap again, and maybe they won't – not for something like this, at least. Not for something this daring, challenging and heart-shatteringly beautiful. Not for this group of actresses and creatives who have carved a space for themselves from the solid wall of a primarily white institution like Muhlenberg, a crevice that's slowly but surely growing and letting in the sun.

for colored girls... has affected this campus in a way that few other shows can boast, holding an essential magnifying glass to the assumptions and hardships that lie at the foundations of this school and of society as a whole. Responses to the show flooded in after its premiere in Baker Theatre on Apr. 26, prompting everything from lengthy conversations to heartfelt posts on social media.

"*for colored girls...*" wrote viewer Asherde Gill '20 on Facebook, "[is] the best show that I've ever seen at this school. So amazing I'm seeing it again ... Do not miss it. #blackgirlmagic."

Evan Brooks '18, another audience member, wrote: "Congrats to these beautiful, smart, hardworking women. This show is all YOURS and don't let Berg or anyone for that matter take that ownership from you ... because folks out here will walk off with aaaaaall your stuff!"

The "ownership" is perhaps the most vital aspect of this show. In a turning point that Brooks references above, the Lady in Green (Asia DeShields '19) breaks out from the background and begins performing a monologue in which she recounts her own personal journey in realizing that "someone almost walked off with all of her stuff." As the monologue progresses, as DeShields takes command of both the other players' and the audience's attention, we start to understand that this "stuff" isn't just belongings that a man came close to stealing: it's the very stuff that makes her up, the scars and wit and habits that belong to her and her alone. DeShields moves easily around the stage, drawing us closer and closer as she raises her voice in discovery, her effervescent demeanor and disbelieving attitude – how could someone have come that close to depriving her of the wonder that is herself? – flowing into the audience, prompting delighted howls and snaps of agreement. For a moment that could be a few minutes or a few lifetimes long, the whole world is here, and DeShields is at its center.

Photo Courtesy of Ken Ek

This, too, is part of the uniqueness of *for colored girls...*: actually listening to voices that have scarcely been heard. Bree Ogaldez '18, who brought to life the entrancing Lady in Purple, recounts the impact of this precious quality of the show.

"... There is so much power in telling your story and being afforded space to do so," said Ogaldez. "Being able to share a stage only with other black woman and have people sit for an hour and a half straight to hear what we had to say – that was a spiritual experience that I am sure will not be matched by any project I do any time soon."

Krystal Hall '21, who plays the Lady in Blue, echoes this statement.

"You can't hide when you're doing a production like this," Hall said. "It was very freeing to able to stand on stage and talk about the struggles that black women go through and how it's relevant even in 2018."

Though the experience of working on the show was certainly valuable, it did not come without its challenges, according to Deja Frazier '21, who played the Echo of the Lady in Purple.

"The rehearsal process was very tiring and stressful but also weirdly rewarding," Frazier said. "In the beginning for me it was a lot less stressful because of how much smaller my role was so I didn't have much to do, but once [the] end of March/April came everything just changed all at once and it got very intense. We started adding in music and dances on top of completely changing and re-blocking scenes. Everything was moving at a much faster pace. There were days where everything was very chill and it all ran smoothly, and then there were definitely those days were we had to go hard and stay focused."

Still, all of this immensely hard work paid off in the whole of the stunning show. Hall stands alone, words tearing out of her throat as she recounts her character's experience of getting an abortion, unable to lose the eyes that have attached themselves to her like parasites. Ogaldez weaves the mysterious narrative of Sechita, the Egyptian goddess of the bayou, as Gabi Hines '18 and Analia Heredia '21 don skirts and corsets worthy of a ball and perform an otherworldly dance whilst partially obscured by fog. Hines, as the Lady in Brown, is later dressed in a schoolgirl's uniform. She delights the audience with her account of romancing seventeenth-century author and Haitian revolutionary Toussaint L'Overture, perfectly balancing childlike mannerisms, effective storytelling and a tiny, invisible Toussaint on her right shoulder.

> **"It was very freeing to able to stand on stage and talk about the struggles that black women go through and how it's relevant even in 2018."**

In one extremely self-conscious scene, Hines stands in the center of an arc formed by the women, musing upon the socioeconomic powers that white people hold in society. Suddenly, the lights come up on the mostly white audience, and Hines says, "We're right in the middle of it," to thunderous laughter and applause.

"I think that the attention drawn to the audience is right there in the writing and we simply respected Shange's words in not shying away from their meaning," said Ogaldez. "This show is so special because it is all about us talking to the audience and inviting them into our worlds for a short period of time. I like to think of that line as a reminder to the audience that they are invited participants, and not simply spectators consuming black women on a stage as entertainment. This is especially relevant at Muhlenberg because the school is a predominantly white institution and that is something that has a large effect on things like how the theatre department chooses its seasons or casts its shows. I think that this line gave the audience a chance to pause and think about their role in these systems that *for colored girls...* is pointing out and challenging."

Perhaps the most impactful scene in the show, though, was a monologue towards its end given by the Lady in Red, played by Cameron Silliman '18. Silliman stands at the corner of the stage and describes the horrific fate of a woman named Crystal and her two children after her boyfriend returns from the war in Vietnam. He is abusive and bent on getting Crystal to marry him, ultimately holding their young children out of a window and dropping them when he is not convinced she will do so. Though there are no props or other actors involved in telling this story, every word that Silliman utters paints a picture so vivid several audience members later claimed it felt like they were watching a movie as she spoke. Her body contorts as she approaches the story's horrific end; her expressions and tone morph seamlessly as she embodies every character in the tale. Tears stream down her face and mine. The audience is held captive with Crystal, transported into an alternate world that is all too real for some. Even as the show moves on, it is almost impossible to let go of the trauma so painfully and perfectly delivered by Silliman.

Of course, we shouldn't let go. We can't let go. This show is meant to change the way that its audience thinks, to push, to prod, to make uncomfortable those who watch it. If we let go, we let *for colored girls...* wash by in vain. As Ogaldez says:

"In five years when I am an alumna of this school, I hope that I am hearing about mainstage shows centering on Asian bodies, on disabled bodies, on Latinx bodies and about how the students are thriving because of those wonderful opportunities."

This show cannot stop here. The rainbow must continue on – must come full circle – in order to make a change. As those who had the privilege to see this show can attest, when people get to keep, own and share their stuff on their own terms, the result is nothing short of magical.

"Asians are basically white"

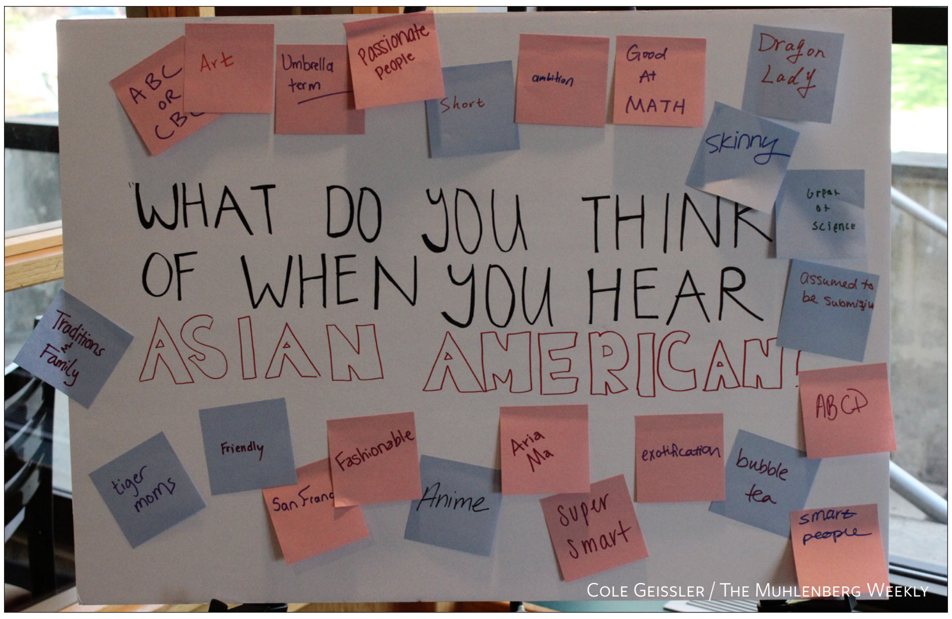
A personal reflection on the recent APAHM celebration

By Susanna Birnbaum
Contributing Writer

The silencing of Asians in America by minimizing their experiences as people of color (POC) is not a new phenomenon. In fact, it stems from the sequence of historical events in the treatment of Asians in America, who would become what is now known as the Asian American community. The Asian race has always been flexible enough to be whitewashed, yet always allowing room to be perpetually grateful, and/or perpetually foreign. Historically, this phenomenon has been constructed not only by dominant sociopolitical influences, but by those in the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community itself.

Specifically on Muhlenberg's campus, the lack of diversity strongly creates a space such that the politicized nature of the Asian race is often left unspoken. Asianness is seen as easily commodifiable, most often in the form of food. The word "Asian" is put in front of any food that has ginger, mandarin oranges, or wasabi flavoring. The whitewashing is further propagated by many students of the AAPI community who do not engage in any (public) politicized discussion or action around race.

In writing this response, I am not trying to call out any specific race, group or institution, but instead shed light on the voices of a portion of Muhlenberg's AAPI community that desire recognition as POC. Recently, with co-director Christopher Chin '19, we directed an event called Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) Celebration on Thursday, Apr. 26 in GQ Annex. The purpose was simple: highlight the voices of a range of Muhlenberg students in the AAPI community to engage the campus in intersectional discussions. Our lives are not only made up of discrimination, but also deep pride and joy in each individual's rich cultural background that we wanted to share with our peers and mentors.



Cole Geissler / The Muhlenberg Weekly

A poster on display in the GQ Annex asked attendees to describe common Asian American stereotypes on sticky-notes.

This public display of our multifaceted identities was to add to conversations on campus that those in the AAPI community have racialized bodies, which means they are subjected to different experiences than our white and other POC counterparents. We specifically did not seek out budding social justice advocates but instead sought out your everyday student. A common trend we found among our AAPI peers was that being part of the AAPI community at 'Berg means living under the concept that Asians are "basically" white. Even though we are being American citizens, in the American school system, attending an American private liberal arts college, and so many other factors that give us ownership of the American identity, living in an Asian body means we are sometimes treated differently, and that ownership is challenged.

Even though we all identify as AAPI individuals, our backgrounds are as diverse as our personalities; this includes fourth or fifth generation AAPI, children of immigrants (a.k.a. first generation), international students and Asian adoptees. (This is just a brief overview of who contributed to this event.) Yet the fact that we all have been subjected to similar, or in some cases, the exact same discriminatory experiences speaks to the overwhelming dismissive, and sometimes ignorant (if not well meaning), treatment of our racial identities.

The APAHM celebration was successful, I believe, in opening up the minds of our peers and mentors to our lived experiences. The event included personal narratives, presentations of independent research, student designed and run interactive stations and Asian studies faculty perspectives, to name a few. When sentiments like being "basically" white are thrown around (either explicitly or implicitly) and internalized, the diversity of voices and the beauty in that diversity is silenced.

Yes, we are your peers, yes, we are your students, yes, we are your student workers and yes, we are your friends. We go through our days as normal as the next person, but we also have extra individual experiences that are influenced by our racialized bodies. These experiences shape each and every one of us differently. As a community we do not all agree on the same issues, but in this case we came together to break the silence not only to show 'Berg that our voices as POC exist, but that they have so much to offer in the way of expanding conversations and enriching the American experience.

A collaborative requiem

By Arielle Moss
Staff Writer

"Music is a powerful form of self-expression; it tells a story," said Ainsley Hilfiker '20, who is a member of College Choir. "Singing is a universal tool, and ... although we all come from different backgrounds, it often has the ability to touch people in some way."

Almost 100 student musicians and singers dressed in black attire filled the stage in Egner Memorial Chapel for a collaborative concert on the evening of Thursday, Apr. 26. The concert was opened to the public, and audience members consisted of students, faculty and parents. A box for donations was placed at the entrance of the chapel for the Fistner family, which includes a Muhlenberg employee, whose house and belongings were destroyed in a fire.

The concert was the first of a two-night series, as the performers also presented the same classical pieces on Saturday, Apr. 28, at Allentown's St. John's Lutheran Church.

The first half of the concert was composed of classical instrumental music performed by the Muhlenberg College Chamber Orchestra, which was directed by Daniel Boring. The orchestra was comprised of student violinists, violists, cellists, bassists, flutists, harpists and timpanists. Professor Stephen Williams played the organ.

Beautiful French classical music could be heard from even the last row of the audience in the chapel. The orchestra played French classics, including Jean-Baptiste Lully's "Chaconne" from *Roland*, Charles Gounod's "Allegro Molto" from *Symphony No. 1*, Camille Saint-Saëns' "Adagio" from *Symphony No. 3* and "Baccanale" from *Samson and Delilah*, and Georges Bizet's Suite from *Carmen*: "Les Dragons d'Alcala," "Habanera," "Seguidilla," and "Toreadors."

> **"Usually we target specific points in certain pieces that need touching up, though this semester we mainly focused on the Fauré."**

After the orchestra's performance in the first half of the concert, there was a brief ten-minute intermission during which the performers took the time to prepare and set up for the second half of the concert with the College Choir.

The collaborative component of the evening consisted of the students from Muhlenberg College Chamber Orchestra and College Choir and was conducted by Dr. Christopher Jackson.

All of the classical songs were sung in Latin as traditionally performed in a Requiem setting; however, translations of the lyrics of each song were provided in the program so the audience could follow along and understand what was being sung.

The classical selections were all from Gabriel Faure's *Requiem in D minor*, including "Introit et Kyrie," "Offertory," "Sanctus," "Pie Jesu," "Agnus Dei," "Libera me" and "In Paradisum."

Ben Dawn-Cross '20, who also sang in the collaborative concert, said that during choir rehearsals, which occur twice a week, the singers went through their repertoire.

"Usually we target specific points in certain pieces that need touching up, though this semester we mainly focused on the Fauré," said Dawn-Cross.

Both the choir and the orchestra rehearsed the pieces separately during the semester. They only had about three or four rehearsals with both groups together, though Dawn-Cross said that they "gelled fairly quickly."

Dr. Jackson also shared background information about each piece before they were performed. He also shared his gratitude that the chapel allowed this big collaboration to happen, as it had a big enough space for all of the musicians and singers to perform together, though this presented a challenge for the singers.

"The hard part was working with the acoustics; the chapel's acoustics aren't the best, so we had to project very well in order to be heard properly," explained Dawn-Cross.

It is not often that almost 100 students of diverse musical talents get to perform a concert together. This collaborative concert gave these students a chance to work with and explore each other's skills, creating something with more impact than either of the groups could separately.

As Dawn-Cross said, "I love singing because it's probably the most innate way to express myself musically — everyone is born with an instrument within them."

Editorial

The year in review and the year ahead

As the academic year draws to a close, the #SaveStudentNewsrooms campaign allowed us to look back at some of our most ground-breaking stories this year. In case you're not following us on Facebook, here's a quick recap:

We covered events, local and national. We memorialized football coach Mike Donnelley after his passing this October. We reviewed every mainstage performance, from *for colored girls...* to *Ubu Roi* to *Sunday in the Park with George*. We asked DACA students what life was like in the face of deportation. We followed the student body's involvement in the March for Our Lives movement and two students shared experiences as part of the marches. We investigated everything from a golf simulator to the firing of the College's long-time security team. We broke the news of a robbery in Benfer Hall and this year's tuition raise. One of our editors even ran for mayor (April fools!); another we stuck in a cardboard newspaper vending machine as a publicity stunt (it was very uncomfortable, by the way. It also, sadly, drew less foot traffic than you'd expect).

In this year alone, we've brought on four new editors. The size of our editorial board is now larger than the number of writers we had when our seniors started.

We even formed a new layout team, which means that for the first time in recent memory having not one, not two, but three people whose sole job is to make our paper look good. With their help, we launched a complete redesign, including a new nameplate and an overall modern look.

We filmed our first video. We now have a newsletter (if you're not on it, subscribe!), and only last week, we made it out of Tuesday night production before 1 a.m. — it's the accomplishment that our staff is perhaps most proud of.

But now, we say goodbye to the team that did it all.

We'll be losing five staff members in the fall — three to the 'real world' and two to studies abroad. Although it may not seem like a lot, that's one third of our editorial staff.

With a little more than 2,000 students and over 110 clubs and organizations on campus, there is no shortage of leadership positions on campus. In fact, it's not uncommon for students in this school to fill leadership positions on more than one club. Assuming everyone is involved only in one activity guarantees at least 20 members per organization, if that. And that number doesn't include our sports teams, theatre productions, students in honors programs or with particularly demanding studies, any students who have off-campus jobs or other obligations that make taking part in more than one organization nearly impossible. Not to mention that every four years — in most cases, every year — students graduate and leave, sometimes just as they've gotten the hang of it. And then you're back to square one.

We've been lucky: our two most senior editors have served together for two years, and most of the staff have held their titles for more than a year, or have moved around on the masthead while still spending every Tuesday in our office. Generally speaking, this type of continuity is uncommon in student organizations, let alone college newspapers.

In other words, this is our first big turnover since our seniors started. And that's terrifying because there's a very real chance that this paper may not be this great ever again.

But there's an equally real chance that it could continue to grow and thrive.

Our system is one of constantly changing parts, which means we're continuously bringing in new ideas. Those who are a little worn out will be replaced by those with fresh perspectives — and this doesn't include future members of our staff who haven't even arrived on campus yet.

With all we've accomplished these last three years, we're still on the upswing. We've got the momentum and the staff to keep covering the issues that matter to our community.

Perhaps we'll even end next year
by taking yet another
victory lap.

The Muhlenberg Weekly Editorial Board, 2018-19

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

As I lock up the Weekly office for one last time...

By Gregory Kantor
Editor-in-Chief

From the outside, there's hardly anything special about The Muhlenberg Weekly's office. To tell the truth, if you blink, you quite literally miss it — I know, because that's exactly what happened the first time I went searching for it.

Almost four not-so-long years ago, I was just a somewhat regular writer. Had our then-Managing Editor, Holden Walter-Warner '16, not been someone I knew from high school, I probably would not have joined the editorial staff for a production Tuesday. And after some wandering down a few hallways, I finally found the office, tucked in a corner of the basement of Seegers.

The rest, as they say, is history.

I've done a lot with my time at Muhlenberg, but it's the time spent with The Weekly that I'll always remember most. Writing stories, choosing headlines, cursing out our ancient printer (we finally replaced it last month!) and searching for Oxford commas (caught that one) have been just as important to me as finding my academic passion and holding a door for someone 50 feet away. It has consumed much of my free time and certainly all of my Tuesdays, but there's nowhere else I'd rather be late on Tuesday nights — or the early morning hours of a Wednesday — than in that very office, putting the newspaper to bed.

Why? Well, last week, I wrote in our #SaveStudentNewsrooms editorial that we put in these efforts to serve the Muhlenberg community, and I certainly believe that's true. But at least for me, there's another explanation — even as someone who values the role that journalism plays in our country, I will not be continuing it as a profession. Rather, what kept me coming back in each week was the sense of community and the relationships that we developed.

Few things make me prouder than thinking about the transformation of our newsroom over the years — our editorial staff has grown from barely existent to a robust, diverse group that delivers a quality paper every week (okay, three out of every four). After years of efforts towards this end, our editors are a part of the community that their sections represent. As a result, our newsroom stands as perhaps the most interdisciplinary student organization our campus has to offer — a major achievement.

I owe a lot to my fellow editors, because it's with them that I've become comfortable with myself. It's here where I've grown as a writer and a leader, but most importantly, it's where I've learned so much about aspects of both our campus and the world beyond Muhlenberg that I might have otherwise not been exposed to. I'm very lucky to consider such talented people amongst my friends, and I thank you for believing in the idea that a newspaper can exist — and make an impact — at a college without a journalism program.

And on that nostalgic note, it's time for some other thank you's.

A special thank you is in order to Alyssa Hertel and Jack Pennington, fellow seniors who bought into my vision before anyone else did, and in so many ways, contributed far more to The Weekly than I ever could. Also, I would be remiss without offering my appreciation to Karl Schultz, who as my roommate freshman year, was subjected to my countless pleas to join the staff; I'm not sure the paper would be the same without your 'Weekly History' columns.

It's with my fellow editors that I've become comfortable with myself. It's here where I've grown as a writer and a leader.

Thank you to Sara Vigneri, our faculty adviser and strongest advocate. Her dedication to journalism and to supporting its 'farm team' is apparent — I challenge you to find any other professor who spends as much time with students after normal working hours as she does. And thank you to Lynne Septon, our long-time publisher who went above and beyond in keeping The Weekly alive for many years and continues to work tirelessly to make our print edition a reality.

But most of all, thank you to our readers — whether you read one article because your friend was quoted or you're a faculty member who reads the paper cover-to-cover, this newspaper is for you. I'm grateful that our college has a newspaper it can once again be proud to call its own.

In the coming days and weeks, I'll be attending my final undergraduate courses and submitting final papers. And this column, of course, is the last time my byline will appear in The Weekly, an organization I have come to care so deeply about. In many ways, I'm ready to graduate — but I'm decidedly not ready to leave The Weekly behind.

Join us in the last edition of the year for

Senior Sendoffs

A goodbye that has nothing to do with me

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

Out of the probable hundreds of articles I've written for The Weekly, opinion pieces and editorials were always the most difficult. It's not that I'm not opinionated — trust me, every one of the staff knows that I am. It's that I've never liked talking about myself. I like to tell other people's stories, not my own. So, for my final article, that's what I'll do.

After joining the paper at the same time as Greg Kantor, the first interaction I had with him was an argument over who would write an article about the now-defunct ice hockey team. I didn't think then that we would ever be friendly; how do you get along with someone that tried to steal your article?

Greg is still stereotypically Long Island loud and a really weak six-foot-one, but he's also the person that pushed my writing and patience the most. Despite my, at times, emotion-fueled outbursts or negative reactions to my articles, Greg has always been there to remind me why I write and defend the work I publish.

When he first became editor-in-chief, I wondered "why not me?" Now, two years later, it's not even a question. There's no one that does their job as well or with as much dedication as Greg.

The layout crew — and the corner office filled with loud music and endless snacks — is sometimes an enigma. But without Emily, Ian and Jack, there wouldn't be a paper, at least not one as good looking as the current publication. And, without them, I don't think I'd be able to get through Tuesday production, regardless of how many times I roll my eyes when Jack asks me to do something.

Chloe, the office mom and deserving future EIC, has ruined my diet with candy-filled gift bags every holiday. She cares more than anyone gives her credit for and, hopefully, one day she'll change the world with her words.

Matt took over as sports editor and has done a far better job than I ever did. In exchange for letting me vent about hockey or critique the administration, I've written more about baseball this year than my entire time at The Weekly because I write every article he pitches — and yes, that's a pun about Matt playing baseball — because they're all that good.

Melissa's passion for comics and theater is unmatched. Lauren is more cultured and artsy than I could ever hope to be and Brooke, well, I wish I had a soul as kind as hers. Will Wamser is too sarcastic and witty for his own good but will, without a doubt, be the greatest mayor Allentown's ever seen.

The point of all this is The Weekly wouldn't be what it is without each of these people, and neither would I. This newspaper has given and taught me a lot over four years and I'll actually miss spending most of my free time writing for or producing our paper. There's something special about it and the people that make it and, even without Greg, Jack and myself (as much as it pains me to include myself in this article), I know The Weekly will continue to thrive in the years to come.

Four years out of a comfort zone

By Emily Davidson
Senior Staff Writer

Whenever someone alludes to "pushing yourself out of your comfort zone," I used to think of an individual act done in isolation that made me uncomfortable, taught me something, or was just a departure from my normal way of living.

Especially as a runner, I've confronted commonplace remarks of "the magic happens outside of your comfort zone" for years. I've been encouraged to take risks by going out more aggressively in a race or experimenting with different styles or training.

As I'm running down the homestretch of my four years at Muhlenberg, I've been given the invaluable perspective of a different type of comfort zone — a social comfort zone.

I've learned going out of your comfort zone isn't an isolated action just involving you. Particularly, there's a lot to learn about ourselves, other people, and our world, by exceeding what I like to call your "social comfort zone". This social comfort zone is grounded in the people whom you interact with, what you learn from others, what you share with each other — it's a dynamic process. Conveniently, as we change, so does our social comfort zone, and so does how much we can push that threshold.

For instance, by the time I was a sophomore, I was fortunate to take on the position of Op/Ed Section Editor at The Weekly. I was thoroughly enthused to engage with writers, helping them reflect on what issues and events mattered to them and how to channel facts, opinions, and emotions into well-crafted opinion pieces and editorials. I was also plunged into an office with other editors from all different backgrounds across campus who knew infinitely more about every facet of news writing than me and virtually everything else Weekly-related. I was particularly humbled by their layout skills using the computer program InDesign. I can write, but my extent of my artistic abilities firmly ceases there. I am visually, musically, and vocally impaired when it comes to my own art production. I had to go out of my social comfort zone, asking for help (a LOT of help) when needed. Furthermore, I had to contact people I barely knew (more strangers) to write op/ed pieces. I also worked with an office full of people who went from being practically strangers to some of my most respected and genuine friends on this campus. I learned new skills, but also had to work with others in positions where I had to ask for help or in a different capacity I wasn't used to.

Challenging my social comfort zone has also helped me to develop a more complex identity and to consider myself a more integrated person. Freshman year Emily was defined by running and pre-med. I solely defined myself by my sport and my academic endeavors — I surrounded myself with my classmates and my teammates. Since then, I've pushed my social comfort zone and have been so lucky to find communities, practically families, of people from the activities I've invested myself in. I literally have developed a running family, a Weekly family, and a tick-lab family. I value not only how other people have influenced and impacted me, but how I've also had the experience of influencing and impacting others. I also learned there's a comfort zone and I caution about the unsustainable zone, in which I over-invested myself in to too many activities. While experiences helped me form a complex identity, over-investing and over-committing yourself can also exhaust you with little time to yourself and at the extreme end, a loss of identity.

Opening yourself to different social groups and different activities through many areas of involvement on campus is a fulfilling experience-based way to learn people skills, life skills, and more about yourself. Will you always agree with differing opinions? No, but expanding your social comfort zone allows you to listen, understand other perspectives, and if necessary — respectfully disagree. Looking to the future, most of us won't have occupations or relationships or lives in complete isolation — most of our life will be spent navigating relationships with others, supporting the significance of expanding a social comfort zone.

As a whole, expanding my social comfort zone has enabled me to both realize and develop the multiple identities of myself, meet some of the most impactful people in my life, and undergo some of the most meaningful experiences that have made me who I am today.

To sum up my experiences at Muhlenberg — I have much to thank the Weekly specifically for, from throwing me to the wolves (InDesign) to developing my interpersonal skills, and to developing my skills of listening to others and moreover, the ability to give people a voice from all backgrounds across this campus.

A short list of grievances

By Jack Pennington
Chief Layout Editor

If you want this job, just tear up your Tuesday. Just take it and throw it in the garbage, take your garbage out because you're a conscientious citizen of spaceship earth, and watch the garbage man truck it off to dump in a pile of trash, falling on top of the fetid mush of your last Tuesday, which is crushing the rotting heap of the Tuesday before that, and the one before that, and down and down until, beneath it all, is the first day you started working here in the office.

That being said, I swear I enjoyed my time here. Remember that while reading the rest of this piece.

My experience on this paper has been one of continuous, often fruitless problem solving. It could be an incredible trip, at first, coming in each week to work on something so desperately in need of help and getting a crack at the paper's many, many issues. We've come a long way.

I was initially scouted both to write for The Weekly and help with layout, but I stopped writing at the end of my sophomore year, coinciding with my leaving the Op/Ed editor position. I was very bad at it. Not only just bad at the job, I made a few mistakes that had some spectacular fallout. I've been on layout officially the two years since.

It's the kind of job that is draining and relentless when done alone. Luckily, I've had this wonderful cast to help me along the way, and today I'm going to return the favor:

- Greg talked me into coming in to help out at The Weekly in the fall of my sophomore year, and I've never forgiven him.
- Alyssa's taste for gap-toothed hockey players is only less remarkable than her inability to get a date. She would sell out any of us for literally any dog.
- No matter who you are or where you find yourself, somewhere, somehow, Emily Davidson is studying for the MCATs.
- I know Melissa Reph's ao3 username and Ian Adler's real birthday, *and they both best not forget*.
- Emily Drake is so antisocial, she technically qualifies as a cryptid.
- Will Wamser doesn't use tabs. Instead, he inputs twelve individual spaces. He will lie about this.
- The only thing more hit or miss than A&C is Lauren and Brooke's fashion sense.
- Matt Riebesell is the perfect section editor, and that's about it.
- Johannah Wai is just a nice and committed person who has hasn't answered a text message since 2015.
- I have not worked with Sydney Coplin long enough to have a good roast. I leave this task to future generations.
- I have no doubt that Chloe Gravereaux will go mad with power the moment Greg leaves.
- I'm afraid that I won't know a group like this again.

Seeing double: Berg's twin teammates

Twins take on the college and student-athlete lifestyle together

By Steven Shoemaker
Staff Writer

For many of the 22 sports on Muhlenberg's campus, teammates become bonded like brothers and sisters on and off of their team's respective fields. Many teams on campus even chant "Family on 3. 1. 2. 3. Family" in pregame huddles before their contests. Win or lose, each team exemplifies the true meaning of family.

However, nothing says family like playing on a team with your twin sibling. There are many sets of twins here at Muhlenberg, even a few sets who do play on the same team together. The Cimring twins (Zach & Jordan '20) and the Vazquez twins (Troy & Taylor '18) are two sets of twins who have had great experiences playing soccer and baseball, respectively, together here at Muhlenberg.

Zach and Jordan have been playing soccer together their whole entire lives. They have always had that twin connection on the field, as they both know what their brother is going to do with the ball at all times. They have always been on the same team and since they are brothers there is no love lost between them. "He [Jordan] always tells me straight up how I'm playing, good or bad. He has always been a great motivator for me," said Zach. Playing together at a collegiate level has always been something that the Cimring twins have aspired to do. "It's pretty cool being able to play together at such a prestigious school. It means a lot being able to represent the school while playing with him," said Jordan.

The Cimring twins have had a lot of great memories together on the soccer field. However, some of their best memories have been off the soccer field as well. In order to be the best at any sport, it is important to put in as much work off the field as on the field. One of the greatest memories that the Cimring twins share happened during thier off-season training. During their summers the twins will train for several fitness tests. All summer long they would wake up early and would either go for a run or hit the gym. For many, summertime is all about having fun and being lazy, but Zach and Jordan motivate each other to work hard because they know that the results will show when the soccer season starts up again. Zach and Jordan are excited to return to the field for their junior seasons, as they look to continue to improve as Muhlenberg Mules.

Having the opportunity to play sports for the rest of your life is an unbelievable accomplishment, but there is nothing more meaningful than getting to do it with your best friend.

As seniors, Troy and Taylor Vazquez have been through a lot both on and off the baseball field for the past four years. They have always played on the same Little League and high school teams together, but it was like a dream come true when they decided to play together at the collegiate level. "Our experience was not much different from playing baseball before college. The only thing that has really changed is that we are playing in a much more competitive setting," said Troy. The Vazquez twins have always had a passion for competition and getting to play baseball with your twin brother just makes it all the more enjoyable.

Taylor found the transition into collegiate baseball much easier because he had his brother by his side. The Vazquez twins have had a lot of memories together, but none was more meaningful to Taylor than their most recent game on Senior Day. "It was nice to look back on all the memories and see where our path has brought us. It also was incredible getting to share the memory with our parents who have been there every step of the way," said Taylor.

Something that Troy has always found to be pretty funny, is when he sees the confusion on the other teams faces when they think they are seeing two of him standing on the field. There was a specific memory last summer when they were playing in a summer league game. Troy started at third base, while Taylor was coming off the bench that day. When they put Taylor in to pinch hit they accused Troy of batting in two different spots in the lineup. After arguing for two innings with the umps that Troy was batting in two positions, they finally realized that they were twins. Sometimes one of the best strategies is getting in the other team's head.

The Vazquez twins plan to prolong their baseball careers, despite their Muhlenberg playing days reaching an end. When they graduate, the Vazquez twins plan to continue to play on their summer league team in Allendale, NJ. "We both still have that competitive spirit and love for the game, so we would love to play whenever we can," said Taylor. Having the opportunity to play sports for the rest of your life is an unbelievable accomplishment, but there is nothing more meaningful than getting to do it with your best friend.

FROM **FOOTBALL** PAGE 12

to solve problems on and off the field, and most importantly I want to be a captain that leads by example in terms of working hard in the classroom and weight room."

Luke Wiley, the third captain, has been a nightmare for opposing offenses in his three seasons that he lettered as a safety. He won team rookie of the year in 2015, along with Centennial Conference Honorable Mention honors in his opening season. 2016 landed him on the Honorable Mention team again. Known for his hard his, Wiley has accumulated 129 tackles, six interceptions, and six pass breakups in his three seasons in the Mules secondary.

"Coach Milne is an extremely hard worker and is someone who has a real passion for the game of football."

Kober, the lone junior captain, is also on the defensive side of the ball. He has started all 11 games in both the 2016 and 2017 season and totaled 123 tackles total. Kober rose to the occasion in the Mules playoff appearance in 2017, picking off two passes as the Mules cruised to the championship.

The captains hope to foster a close-knit and family-first attitude among the program, a major reason why Gibbon and Oprisko both say they chose to pursue a student-athlete career. "On my overnight recruiting visit to Muhlenberg I realized how close the team was. Being a part of the Muhlenberg football family has led to me finding some of my best friends and has helped create so many memories that have truly made my 'Berg experience amazing," said Gibbon.

"Football was my means of getting in Muhlenberg, and has since served as a platform to meet people who are going to be my lifelong friends," Oprisko echoed.

The team also has a new leader beyond the captains. Coach Milne will take on the head coaching reigns after serving the previous three seasons as the offensive coordinator for the Mules. Both Gibbon and Oprisko are excited with how the programs first offseason under Milne has been going.

"Our first semester with Coach Milne (as the head coach) was definitely a semester in which we made progress in achieving next year's goals," said Oprisko. "We have not missed a beat in the transition of coaches. Also not much has changed this year from previous years except for our pre-practice stretch routine."

Since the team's current seniors were Milne's first class at Muhlenberg, Gibbon says that the two were able to help each other transition to life as a Muhlenberg Football family member. "Since we were both on the offensive side of the ball I have gotten to know him very well. Coach Milne is an extremely hard worker and is someone who has a real passion for the game of football."

Already, Gibbon is impressed and excited about the idea the head coach implemented in his first offseason. "One of my favorite things about it was his idea to create a tremendous team bonding event with our final spring practice by inviting our families and incoming freshman to come watch and have a post-practice meal with us afterwards."

MUHLENBERG

Matt Gibbon rolls out of the pocket during the Mules ECAC victory hosted by the University of Delaware.
Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

The Mules have had been one of the most prestigious college football teams in Division III over the past decade. Since 2012 the Mules have won at least eight games out of their 11 game schedule every season. The program is also coming off of a 2017 ECAC Bowl Game victory against Carnegie Mellon.

The goals of this program are simple. Chase the ring. Win the Centennial. Dominate the postseason. All of which Oprisko and Gibbon believe are possible. "We have the talent to win our conference. We have a lot of starters coming back, and our young guys are making great improvements with their knowledge of football and have gotten noticeably stronger from their work in the weight room," said Oprisko.

Gibbon agreed: "After experiencing a post-season win this past season, it would be awesome to get ourselves back into that scenario because of how much we all enjoyed that experience."

FROM **ALUMNI** PAGE 12

teams coordinator, he helped orchestrate an offense that ranked second in Division III in completion percentage and set school records for points and yards per game.

Graduating in 2014 and 2016 respectively, Delade and Smith are also alumni members of this past year's coaching staff. Smith, a linebacker, was part of an accomplished defense which was ranked within the top 15 in Division III for total defense and run defense. Smith led that team with 83 tackles and was awarded All Centennial-Conference second team for his efforts in 2015. Delade was a force on the Mules defensive line. The defensive end made a habit of getting to the ball behind the line of scrimmage, compiling 20 sacks and 37.5 tackles for a loss in his Muhlenberg tenure. He also forced four fumbles and snagged two interceptions.

However, Scotty Wood stadium is not the only realm of Muhlenberg which has seen successful athletes become involved in the program after graduating. Head wrestling coach Jason Mclean is an alumnus, and formerly one of the most decorated wrestlers in the program's history. Graduating in 2001, McLean earned All-American honors by finishing eighth at 141 pounds at the NCAA Championships as a senior. He also won the Centennial Conference championship that season, finishing with a record of 34-11, good for the second-most wins in a season in program history.

Since graduating, he worked for the New Brunswick School District in numerous roles, and also rebuilt the New Brunswick High School wrestling program after a 25-year hiatus. "The opportunity to step in at the helm at Muhlenberg means the world to me," said McLean on his hiring. "I was beyond appreciative of Corey Goff and the Muhlenberg faithful for giving me this opportunity. My plan is to lead with the same vigor, drive and persistence that helped make me Muhlenberg College's first All-American and to fill the wall with more. I never took my last year of eligibility and chance at giving Muhlenberg a two-time All-American then; I plan on making up for it now." This past year, Mclean took the reins mere weeks before the beginning of the season and provided the team with a steady hand, leading the boys to a productive season.

Other notable alumni coaches include Kiersten Mulvey, a 2017 grad and assistant women's lacrosse coach, former pitcher David Anderson, who served as an assistant/pitching coach for the Mules from 2016-2017, and Maria Serina, a 2003 grad and former captain of the volleyball team who returned to be an assistant coach in 2015.

The Muhlenberg Athletics program has produced countless exceptional athletes over the years. But the opportunity for some of them to return to their alma mater as coaches has benefitted the school, and the former student-athletes. The respective Muhlenberg teams have been able to add a coach to the staff who has been in a similar position of the current players, and knows the program in a way only a former player can. And for the coach, it is a great opportunity to represent the Mules once again in a different role, and contribute what they can to help their teams find success.

FROM **BASEBALL** PAGE 12

doubt that we would make the playoffs."

Muhlenberg enter the Centennial Conference postseason as the third seed, sitting behind Swarthmore and Johns Hopkins who both finished the season 15-3 and earned votes towards the national ranking. For Swarthmore and Hopkins, the path to the playoffs was already paved at the beginning of the season. But for the Mules, that playoff spot had to be earned.

"For the first time in four years, I truly feel that this team is a family. Each player has their teammates backs both on and off the field."

After opening the season with three straight wins, the Mules bounced between wins and losses all season, constantly teetering around the .500 mark. It wasn't until Muhlenberg won six games in six days - including five Centennial Conference wins, the first streak of its kind in 10 years - that the postseason fantasy became a reality. It was those wins that bumped 'Berg into playoff position.

The team's 2-2 split in the final four games cemented their spot.; going into the last four series, three of those four teams were ahead of Muhlenberg in the conference standings.

The Mules playoff appearance may come as a surprise to the rest of the Centennial, being that the Mules were picked to come in eighth in the Conference's preseason coaches poll, but for co-captain Tim Pilrun '18 the team's success this season didn't come as a surprise at all.

"This year we have put ourselves in a position to win every game we play," said Pilrun. "There is not a position out there we feel is a weakness on our team and our pitching staff is deep. We know whoever we put on the mound is going to compete and if can push a couple runs across we are going to win."

A large part of that success down the final stretch was due to the success performances of Chris Grillo '19. Grillo was named Centennial Conference co-player of the week after scoring eight runs in four games and hitting two home runs against Ursinus College.

According to Grillo, who was named Centennial Conference Rookie of the Year in 2016, has "made a conscience effort" to ensure all his teammates know "what it takes to be successful and what it means to work hard." That idea of teamwork being the team's driving factor was common among Grillo, Pilrun and Reitmeyer.

"Baseball is such a team sport so regardless of how well one person does we will never make the playoffs unless other people buy in," said Pilrun. " This year the team camaraderie has been great and we've played together as a team the entire year which has played a huge role pushing us into the playoffs."

Reitmeyer echoed that sentiment, saying, "For the first time in four years, I truly feel that this team is a family. Each player has their teammates backs both on and off the field. We all share the same goals and we have fun playing the game of baseball together. I also think it was our preparation in the off season that led to our success. We took the fall practices, weight lifting, and conditioning very serious to be ready to go once the season started. Even in the past, we have had the talent. This year we have the camaraderie that has been missing."

At least for now the Mules are focused on doing what they've done since February, coming from behind to prove they belong at the top, and focusing on prolonging the best season Muhlenberg baseball has had in years this Thursday against Johns Hopkins.

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Who let the dogs out?

Underdog baseball finishes third in the Conference, making the playoffs for the first time in 5 years

By Alyssa Hertel
Managing Editor

The last year that Muhlenberg College baseball finished the regular season above .500 was 2008. Corey Goff was head coach and the team made the Centennial Conference playoffs. Christian Conti ‘09 set records for runs scored, extra-base hits, triples, home runs and runs batted in for a season; his teammates from that season still hold three career records.

It took until 2014 for baseball to make the playoffs again.

Now, ten years after that record season, Muhlenberg’s baseball team has done it again. Finishing the regular season this past Monday with a 19-18 record overall and an 11-7 record in the Centennial Conference, the upcoming playoffs will be the first appearance for all the players, an achievement four years in the making.

“Before the season even started we implemented the goal of making the conference tournament and winning it, so it is no surprise that we made the playoffs,” said Eric Reitmeyer ‘18, co-captain of the baseball team. “If anything, I would say there’s more feelings of excitement since this is the first time we made it in the several years. After losing five straight conference games and having a record of 3-6, we knew it was not going to be easy to earn a position in the playoffs.”

Reitmeyer continued, “After three years of not making the CC tournament, all of the seniors this year did have some concerns about whether or not we would ever play in a playoff game. However, after seeing the new talent that was brought in this year, we knew that if we could play to our potential there would be no

see **Baseball** page 11

Leading the ship

Captains named for 2018-19 football team

By Matt Riebesell
Sports Editor

Four Muhlenberg football players were named team captains by Head Coach Nate Milne on April 26. Matt Gibbon ‘19, Kyle Oprisko ‘19, Luke Wiley ‘19, and Mickey Kober ‘20 will lead the Mules out of the locker room and into Scotty Wood Stadium on Saturday afternoons next fall.

“I plan to help my teammates create a positive winning atmosphere that promotes competition,” explained Gibbon. In Gibbon’s time as a quarterback in the Mules program he has been critical in the transition from the Nick Palladino era. In the 2017 season, a year in which the Mules started two different QBs throughout the season, Gibbon had four touchdowns — three passing and one rushing.

In leading the Mules, Gibbon hopes this year’s squad is cohesive and in contention to top the Centennial Conference. “I want to make sure that every single guy on the team feels like a part of our Mule family and encourage everyone to bring out the best in each other, on and off the field,” he explained.

Kyle Oprisko has been a staple of the Muhlenberg offensive line for the past two seasons protecting quarterbacks and helping push the ball upfield. In 2016 and 2017 he started all 11 games, and in 2016 he was part of an offense which led the conference in rushing, total offense, and points per game.

“This program has been historically a great program and I am honored to continue the chain of great football teams here at Muhlenberg,” said Oprisko. The right guard wants his leadership style to go well beyond the gridiron. “I want to be a captain that the team can trust

see **Football** page 10

Back at ‘Berg

By Max Shapiro
Senior Staff Writer

Over the span of a typical four-year college career, Muhlenberg players pour their heart and soul into the commitment of being a student-athlete. They balance their time and give their blood, sweat and tears to their team. For the majority of those four years, not a day goes by without them doing something related to their sport. And at the end of their senior season, it all just ends.

Except for a select few graduates.

On occasion, former Muhlenberg athletes are brought back at some point after graduating to join the coaching staff of the team they once played for.

Prime examples of this are several assistant football coaches who spent their college careers in the cardinal and white. Special teams coordinator Joshua Carter, defensive line coach Greg DeLade, and linebackers coach Lenny Smith are all current members of the Mules football coaching staff who also call the school their alma mater.

Carter was a lethal kick returner for the team from 1998-2001. He spent that time setting numerous records that still stand today. He holds the school record for career yards (2,189), average yards per return, and return touchdowns, most yards in a single game (344), touchdown receptions in a career, game and single season (33/4/14) and career receiving yards (2,733). He also tied the mark for career receptions (169). Over 10 years after his graduation, Carter still holds the all-time Division III records for career yards on punt returns and combined yards on kick returns. Carter was inducted into the Muhlenberg College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. After being hired back to his alma mater in 2014 as quarterbacks/wide receivers coach and special

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Coming up this week in
SPORTS
May 3rd through May 14th

Baseball
Muhlenberg
vs
Johns Hopkins
Thursday, May 3 @ 3 pm
Baltimore, MD

Baseball
Muhlenberg
vs
TBD
Saturday, May 5 @ 9 am
Swathmore, PA

Track and Field
Centennial
Conference
Championships
Saturday, May 5 @ 9 am
Collegeville, PA

Track and Field
Swathmore
Final
Qualifier
Monday, May 14
Swathmore, PA